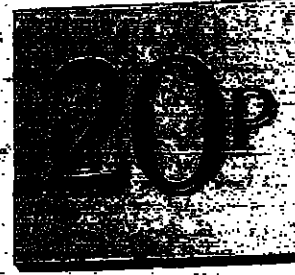
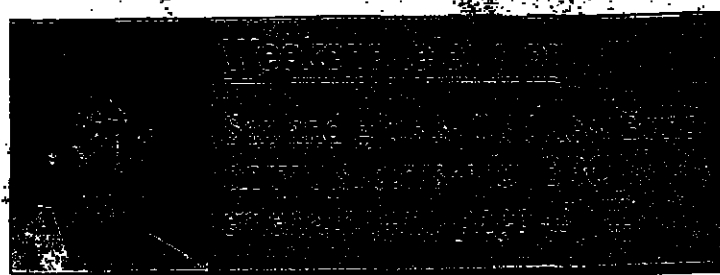


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THE TIMES



No. 65,177

MONDAY JANUARY 30 1995

Major attacked for 'great mistake'

Tories split over Cabinet line on EU

By Nicholas Wood, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Cabinet's Euro-sceptic line on greater European integration further divided the Tory party yesterday with Sir Edward Heath leading the pro-European backlash.

The former Prime Minister said it was a "great mistake" for John Major to disclose his negotiating hand and side with the Euro-sceptics in the run-up to the Maastricht Two intergovernmental conference (IGC) next year. He also said that rightwingers were gunning for Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, but that they would fail in their attempt to force him out.

In a further sign of the anger among the Conservative centre-left at the Cabinet's lurch to the Right, Tim Renton, a former Chief Whip, accused Michael Portillo of being a "flat-earther" in opposing a single currency. Also, Sir Peter Hordern, chairman of the backbench Tory European affairs committee, gave a warning that living standards would suffer if Britain turned its back on a single currency.

But there was little sign yesterday of the Prime Minister or Mr Portillo giving ground in the face of the protests and warnings by Jacques Santer and other Continental politicians that Britain was treading a dangerous path in preparing to confront its partners in the European Union. Ironically, Mr Santer, President of the European Commission, created barely a ripple among his audience of British and European politicians and businessmen at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, when he



Renton: accused Portillo of being a flat-earther

spelt out his vision of the EU's future.

Mr Major said that the high tide of federalism in Europe was in decline and Mr Portillo, Employment Secretary, insisted that Britain would use its veto to stop closer European integration.

In the wake of last week's Cabinet meeting at which Mr Hurd's recommendations for the IGC were sidelined, Euro-sceptics inside and outside the Cabinet were cock-a-hoop about the change of tack under Mr Major's leadership.

"I am convinced that on balance we now have a Euro-sceptic Cabinet," one leading Maastricht rebel said, naming Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, and David Hunt, the Cabinet troubleshooter, as ministers who had shifted their ground.

The sceptics were boosted by a Harris Research poll for BBC Television's *On the Record* showing that 55 per

cent of Britons oppose a single currency and only 31 per cent are in favour.

In a further sign of the new mood within the Cabinet, Mr Rifkind will today in Brussels reject the call by Mr Santer for a new leap towards a federal Europe. He will insist that the "nation state" must retain final authority and emphasise the need to strengthen relations with the United States.

Britain is worried that the IGC will see an attempt to replace intergovernmental co-operation over defence and foreign policy with direct control by the Community. But the Defence Secretary will say that Britain will never give up final authority over its armed forces, and that action should be decided by co-operation between individual nations, not "supranational bodies".

The Prime Minister said in a BBC interview that the future of Europe lay not in a "centralist monolith" but in more flexible arrangements between member states. "What we have to do is to determine how that comes about," he added.

Despite the rising confidence among Euro-sceptics, Sir Edward Heath said that they would not drive out the Foreign Secretary. Interviewed on *Breakfast with Frost*, Sir Edward said: "There's a campaign at the moment against Douglas Hurd to try to do him in, and saying he is going to retire and what a good thing it is to be Continued on page 2, col 6

Santer reveals guif, page 2
 Peter Riddell, page 16



A white dove released yesterday from the Pope's balcony overlooking St Peter's Square flew back and perched on his head, knocking off his skull cap. The Vatican declined to issue a photograph of the bird landing

January rains set 50-year record

By Emma Wilkins

TORRENTIAL rain brought flooding to parts of Wales and southwest England yesterday and looked set to make this month the wettest January for nearly half a century.

The National Rivers Authority issued a red alert for the Severn in Shropshire after the river burst its banks at Welshpool, Powys, causing widespread flooding.

After a bright start further rain is expected to push eastwards across the south Midlands towards Essex. Snow is forecast today for northeastern Scotland and eastern England, including East Anglia.

"We are on course for the wettest January since 1948," the London Weather Centre

said. "Most parts of the country have had two or three times the amount of rainfall we would expect for an average January."

The normal amount of January rainfall is 1.72 inches, but most parts of Britain, excluding northwest Scotland and Northern Ireland, have had more than four inches. More than eight inches of rain has already fallen in Somerset.

In Wales, hundreds of acres of farmland around Welshpool were under water after the Severn overflowed. The rivers authority issued amber alerts for Wye in mid-Wales, the Dovey in the Marchlynedd area and for the Eran at Llandoverly. Two fishermen

were rescued by RAF helicopter after spending a night aboard their 14ft boat in force seven gales and high seas off Anglesey. William Newman, 43, and Michael Little, 28, both from Telford, Shropshire, set off on Saturday for a fishing trip but drifted 16 miles out to sea.

One man drowned in Essex after his dinghy capsized at Brightlingsea Creek, near the mouth of the Colne. Leonard Miller, 50, was travelling 700 yards across the creek from a pub to a caravan base on the other side of the water.

In Wiltshire, the Avon flooded half-way up the river-side gardens of residents in Salisbury Cathedral Close.

Hundreds of acres of farmland on the Somerset Levels are under water — flooding the already saturated soil. In Cornwall, the Neet was on amber alert at Bude. In Scotland, thousands of skiers were out of the slopes yesterday after snowfalls brought fresh cover. There were more than 1,000 skiers on Cairngorm, near Aviemore.

Up to 20 people were feared drowned as floods and gales swept northern Europe. Dozens of towns and villages have been evacuated in eastern and western France.

Europe flood toll, page 9
 Photograph and forecast, page 22

Howard's police caution pruned to 37 words

By Stewart Tisdler, Crime Correspondent

NEARLY six months after lawyers, civil liberties groups and police commanders rejected a hefty new 58-word police caution for suspects, the Home Office is launching a pruned version of 37 words.

It is longer than the present 23-word caution that has been used in England and Wales for 30 years. Home Office officials, lawyers and the police, however, believe that the edited caution will be workable. The Home Office has confirmed that the new wording is imminent.

The shortened version is expected to read: "You do not have to say anything. But it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence."

The replacement caution originally proposed by the Home Office, and reportedly mostly written by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, read: "You do not have to say anything. But if you do not mention now something which you later used in your defence the court may decide that your failure to mention it now strengthens the case against you. A record will be made of anything you say and it may be given in evidence if you are brought to trial."

The present caution says: "You do not have to say anything unless you wish to do so but what you say will be given in evidence." It is now considered inadequate for changing legal circumstances where, under the new Criminal Justice Act, inferences may be drawn in court if a suspect fails to mention a fact under questioning that later is part of his defence.

The Police Federation said it had been consulted about the new formula and had failed to suggest a better one.

The Times

The Times regrets that the coupon enabling readers to buy *The Sunday Times* for 70p was not published in some editions on Saturday. Newsagents have been asked to accept the masthead at the top of the front page of Saturday's paper instead of the voucher.

If your newsagent will not accept the masthead, please write to the Distribution Manager, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, who will refund the 30p as well as postage. We apologise for any inconvenience.

MBA supplement

Today's 16-page supplement provides an invaluable guide to the wide range of MBA courses.

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Dublin 'to free five more IRA inmates'

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

THE Irish Government is planning to release up to five IRA prisoners before the end of their sentences as a reward for the ceasefire, political sources in Dublin said last night.

Speculation mounted in the Republic last night that the inmates would be freed this week after the Irish Government released nine prisoners last year.

The inmates are believed to include Pamela Kane, the IRA's only woman prisoner in the Republic, who is not due to be released until 1997. Kane, 30, from Dublin, is serving a ten year sentence for armed robbery. Prison sources said that Pat Flanagan, who is due to be released in 1996 after a

ten year sentence, will also be freed. He is understood to be ill.

The Irish Government believes that freeing IRA prisoners is the most important concession it can offer the republican movement to underpin the ceasefire. Sinn Féin is running a campaign to free its "prisoners of war", and Dublin is concerned that London's refusal to release prisoners will undermine support for the ceasefire among IRA hardliners.

There are 46 prisoners in the Republic who claim allegiance to the IRA. The five who are due to be released are among 30 inmates in the country freed on parole just before Christmas.

Three missing sisters safe

Three sisters were found safe last night after running away on Saturday in an attempt to reunite their estranged parents.

Catherine Davison, 14, and her sisters Donna, 12, and Lynda, 6, left a note for their father at their home in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear. Police said they had been staying at the home of a school friend of Catherine.

Son finds mother murdered in bed

A man discovered the battered and strangled body of his elderly mother after her killer apparently broke into the family's large home in Wembley, north west London, and murdered the wealthy widow as she slept. Page 3

UN struggles to head off jungle war

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations was trying yesterday to prevent a longstanding border dispute between Peru and Ecuador flaring up into a full-scale war, after several days of fighting in the jungle.

Last night Ecuador claimed that it had brought down a helicopter and killed seven Peruvian soldiers who were part of a "massive offensive" launched against Ecuadorian positions.

Argentina, the current president of the 15-nation UN Security Council, called for an emergency Council meeting as Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, contacted the UN ambassadors of both sides in an effort to mediate. Both Peru and Ecuador have reinforced their troops along the disputed 50-mile stretch of border.

Relations between the two countries have been tense since they signed a treaty in 1942 which gave half of Ecuador to Peru after a border war. Fighting escalated this year after Ecuador repudiated a territorial settlement. At least 30 people have been killed in the past three days.

Cesar Gaviria, head of the Organisation of American States, travelled to the region in an effort to find a peaceful solution. But President Fujimori of Peru said on Saturday that neither the OAS nor the UN should meddle.

Border raid, page 11

Shortage of runs makes Gooch end Test career

By Our Sports Staff

GRAHAM GOOCH said yesterday that his 20-year international cricket career will end when he steps off the field in Perth next week. The former England captain, who will break the record of Test appearances for England in the fifth and final Test against Australia on Thursday, is tired of losing and unwilling to tolerate the decline in his personal standards.

"My job is to score runs and I haven't been doing that in the quantities I expect of myself," Gooch, 41, said yesterday, shortly before scoring 34 in the second innings of the fourth Test in Adelaide. "I still feel capable of making enough runs to get by at this level, but

getting by is not my game. It is an emotional thing, because I have put a lot of time and effort into Test cricket. But I set out to score hundreds and if I don't do it I get disappointed. Mentally, I can't handle a drop in my standards."

Gooch, a fitness fanatic who is meticulous in his preparation, admitted it has taken a lot out of him to compose himself prior to innings in Australia. The timing of his announcement is neat. He will play his 118th Test match in Perth, breaking David Gower's record, and yesterday he became the third-highest run-scorer in Test cricket, behind Allan Border and Sunil Gavaskar, with 8,859 at an average of nearly 43. But the 17 innings since the last of 20 Test hundreds — against New Zealand in Nottingham last summer — have brought only 358 runs. During his Test career, Gooch has taken 23 wickets with his medium-pace bowling and played in 125 one-day internationals.

He played in his first Test in 1975, two years after his first-class debut for Essex, the county he has served throughout his career. He captained England 34 times and, but for a three-year Test ban for joining an unofficial tour to South Africa in 1982, would have set further records. His highest score in a Test was 333, which he achieved against India at Lord's in 1990.

"Not only is this the right time for me, but the right time for England," said Gooch, who is to continue as captain of Essex. "I believe that for the

team to progress, the other batsmen in the side must be encouraged to take up the challenges of establishing themselves as senior players."

Keith Fletcher, the England manager, expressed his sadness at the end of "a long and distinguished international career. I still think Graham has got some runs left in him and there's a good chance he will score a century in the last Test at Perth. But you can't turn the clock back and I think he's probably made the right decision."

England were struggling to avoid defeat in Adelaide. Going into the last day today, they led Australia by 154 runs with four second-innings wickets in hand. Gooch was batting serenely until being caught behind for the fifth



Gooch: about to set Test appearance record

time in a series in which he is averaging only 25. Australia lead the series 2-0.

Test report and John Woodcock, page 25



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Santer emerges as new player in Tory power struggle



Santer: avoiding conflict

THE furious argument that blew up at Westminster and across the airwaves yesterday over the latest speech on Europe's future by Jacques Santer reveals the gulf that has opened up between Britain's European debate and the argument on the Continent.

Attending the World Economic Forum in Davos alongside M. Santer, Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, repeated the Cabinet's current chorus that further powers should not be ceded to Brussels in 1996 when the Maastricht treaty is reviewed. Mr Portillo's remarks set the tone for a weekend of Conservative MPs dubbing each other over the head with claims and counter-claims about Mr Santer's speech, which bore almost no relation to anything that the new President of the European Commission had said in Switzerland. Whether he likes it or not, Mr Santer has become a player in the Tory party's power struggle.

The briefest examination of M. Santer's address to the movers and shakers of the global economy

Jacques Santer's speech in Davos at the weekend produced claims and counter-claims among Conservative MPs that bore almost no relation to anything he said. George Brock writes

discloses that he went out of his way to avoid embarrassing John Major and his Government. The speech is markedly less radical than Mr Santer's speech ten days ago to the European Parliament.

Nobody who has seen the former Prime Minister of Luxembourg in action could say that he enjoys provoking controversy: in fact he recoils from conflict and is trying to talk plainly to a European audience made up of 380 million people who speak at least 11 languages. In doing so, he has already said things which Jacques Delors would never have countenanced. However true he knew it to be, M. Delors would have been loath to admit that people see the EU as "part of a bureaucratic, byzantine, technocratic Brussels maze, detached from the real

world's problems". The EU treaty requires the Commission to ensure that the treaty is "applied". Since the Maastricht treaty commits all 15 governments both to the goal of a single currency and to discussing the development of a "common defence", a Commission president who failed to support these aims would be failing in his most basic task.

Mr Santer did not go on to ask the interesting question of whether public opinion across the EU was either interested in or behind these lofty aims: his frankness has limits. But he did say that the EU "must in future give much clearer, understandable and more convincing answers as to how it genuinely benefits ordinary people's lives". Mr Santer is discovering that

almost any speech he makes will now generate "New Federalist Threat to Major" headlines.

"Santer isn't out to get Major but he is his own man," a senior EU official said. "He can't tailor any speech he makes to what some loonies in the British gutter press or Westminster will think of it."

Douglas Hurd finds himself in much the same position. Asked last week how he felt on saying goodbye to M. Delors, the Foreign Secretary replied that while he disagreed with M. Delors he bid him farewell "with a certain amount of regret" because he was a "highly intelligent and honourable man".

Just as continental arguments over the EU's future constitution are in mellow flux, Britain's political debate is hardening. EU officials and diplomats conclude that dialogue with London is all but impossible as collective hysteria grips Westminster. "Until recently I thought that Britain would arrive at the conference in 1996 with a set of ideas and might be quite well-placed in the main-

stream on some of them," a senior Commission official said yesterday. "But when I see this sort of thing I'm flabbergasted. If this goes on, the British will just isolate themselves in the arguments."

The continental analysts who circulate between the endless seminars chewing over what should happen in 1996 ask themselves a question seldom posed in British debate: how far from the centre of the EU does Britain want to be?

Mr Santer said on Saturday: "We might need to consider a multi-speed approach to European integration, but without building Chinese walls around those in the vanguard group to ensure that there is no permanent exclusion, discrimination or Europe à la carte."

That sounds like an encouraging reply to John Major's words on the same topic in his speech in Leiden last autumn. However, it is not clear if the two men are on the same wavelength any more.

Pro-Europe backlash, page 1
Peter Riddell, page 16



Portillo: Cabinet chorus

Gummer to cut local authority support

Ministers act to quell revolt on town hall funding

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is facing a rough ride on Wednesday over the level of Whitehall cash grants to local councils. Senior ministers are fearful they could be hit by a Tory revolt as they try to push through the Commons what they admit is the toughest local authority settlement in 30 years.

Under an announcement made by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, in November, central support for local authorities is set to fall by 0.4 per cent in cash terms after discounting extra money for community care.

Tory MPs in shire seats have been bombarded with claims by council leaders and officers that the town and county hall squeeze will mean drastic cuts in education with teachers being sacked and

class sizes rising sharply. Concern has also been expressed about police funding and social services. But some Tories have hit back by accusing Labour and Liberal Democrat councils of deliberately targeting these politically sensitive services to maximise pressure on the Government.

Rightwing Tories are inclined to stand firm in Wednesday's vote to approve the revenue support grant settlement because they fear that any extra public spending would jeopardise their hopes of pre-election tax cuts.

It is understood that Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, has had 1,000 letters of protest in his Hertfordshire constituency. Other Oxfordshire Tories have been put under pressure by angry parents and last week Roy Fryke,

director of education services in Kent, issued a leaflet warning parents of sharp reductions. "Every part of the Kent education service will be hit," he said.

The campaign against the settlement has provoked intense efforts by ministers to keep MPs in line and head off a bigger revolt. Last week, David Curry, the Local Government Minister, and Eric Forth, the Schools Minister, sought to reassure worried Conservative MPs at an unusually well-attended meeting of the backbench education committee.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, wrote to all Tory MPs at the weekend spelling out the facts in individual constituencies and giving them ammunition with which to counter local critics.

But Mrs Shepherd is worried that the settlement is so tight that councils will not be able to fund this year's teachers' pay award. She is considering urging the Prime Minister to cut back any review body award, due this month, to no more than 1.5 per cent.

Ministers appeared confident last night that few if any Tories would take their opposition to the point of voting against the Government. However, senior figures predicted a lot of Conservative "whingeing and moaning" in the debate to be opened by Mr Gummer and closed by Mr Curry.

Sir Teddy Taylor, one of the nine whipless Tories, predicted "revolving doors" from Tories in the debate and said he was worried about police cuts in Essex. Robert Jackson, Tory MP for Warrington and a former Education Minister, said he had received 500-600 letters of protest about the spending squeeze.

Agenda, page 6
Rail rebellion, page 8
Leading article, page 17



Pebble-dashing on the historic walls of Hillsborough Fort, which angry residents describe as "vandalism"

Pebble-dashing brings unfortunate touch of suburbia to historic fort

GOVERNMENT officials in Northern Ireland charged with conserving its architectural heritage have been accused of vandalism for covering one of its most picturesque and historic houses with a suburban-style pebble-dash.

Many residents of Hillsborough, Co. Down, a conservation village and the site of the Queen's official home in Ulster, are said to be "horrified" at the inappropriate rendering that has been slapped all over the walls of Hillsborough Fort's gatehouse on the orders of the provincial Environment Department.

Built in 1650 with its four towers added in a remodeling in 1761, the crenellated gatehouse sits squarely flanked by the bare stone walls and earth ramparts of the old artillery fort and adjoins the similarly stone-built St Malachy's palace church with which it was, until the rendering, visually



David Kingan stands before the renovated fort

cohesive. But now, apart from its crenellations and a few courses of brickwork at the roof, it is wholly covered with pale brown pebble-dash. David Kingan, vice chairman of the Hillsborough and District Committee, which was set up more than 40 years ago to safeguard the village's largely Georgian appear-

ance, said: "There was no consultation. The first we knew was when the DOE had contractors working. We thought they were merely doing the gatehouse up. We didn't realise the outside appearance was going to be radically altered too."

Jim Molyneux, the Ulster Unionist Party leader in

whose constituency Hillsborough lies, was unequivocal. "The rendering is vandalism," he said.

Jim Quinn, of Qu-Val Construction, the first contractor commissioned to refurbish the gatehouse, asked to be relieved of the contract when told by Marion Meek, the DOE's senior inspector of historic monuments, to pebble-dash the walls.

Mr Quinn told the residents' committee: "Children are penalised for spraying graffiti on walls. This is much more serious and is being carried out by a misguided government department under the guise of conservation."

Ms Meek said: "I understand people's concerns but we have to protect what was originally there to allow this building to survive. The very fine woodwork within was beginning to rot."

But Ms Meek conceded that pebble-dash was a modern technique.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brooke praises 'brave' Adams

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader, is a "brave man", Peter Brooke, the former Northern Ireland Secretary, will say on tonight's *Panorama* programme on BBC1 (Nicholas Watts writes).

Mr Brooke praises Mr Adams for leading the IRA across a "rubicon" when its ceasefire was declared last year. Mr Brooke, who was replaced by Sir Patrick Mayhew in 1992, says in the programme: "Gerry Adams was a brave man and I hope he will be justified. That step, the ceasefire, was a crucial step. He had a leadership role. He performed it."

The police presence on anti-terrorist checkpoints around the City of London is being scaled down. Round-the-clock manning of eight checkpoints set up after the IRA bombings of the City in 1992 and 1993 is to cease. The barriers will remain and officers will continue to staff the checkpoints on an irregular basis.

Parents seek Major's help

The parents of a Scots Guardsman who stood trial for murder in Belfast last year called on John Major yesterday to intervene in the case. Douglas and Isobel Wright said they were "cracking up" as they waited to hear their son's fate after judgment was reserved in his case. Mark Wright, 21, from Arbroath, stood trial last year with James Fisher, 28, from Ayrshire, accused of murdering Peter McBride, 18, in Belfast in 1992. The two are still in custody.

Overhaul for prison chiefs

Senior managers in the Prison Service face a wide-ranging overhaul in the wake of the Whitmore and Parkhurst escapes, officials confirmed yesterday. The service faced fresh embarrassment over the weekend with the publication of a leaked memorandum from its director of finance linking the escapes to failures by managers and the service's board. A spokesman said that recommendations would be made within the next few weeks.

Channel Tunnel security inquiry

Brian Mahoney, the Transport Secretary, ordered the two companies running Channel Tunnel services yesterday to investigate security procedures after allegations of breaches involving Eurostar and Shuttle trains. The move followed newspaper allegations that X-ray scanning equipment was not used on luggage at the Waterloo terminal and that lorries were not checked. A spokesman said Dr Mahoney had personally ordered the reports.

Pensioner's winning way

A pensioner has won on the National Lottery every week by using his intuition and a hat containing raffle tickets. Arthur Kimberley, 70, of Headington, Oxfordshire, enjoyed his latest win on Saturday of two lots of £10. Four players won £2,293,628 each. Sixteen shared the five-plus-bonus prize and won £176,432 each, while 1,304 had five matching numbers which gave them £1,353.

Winning numbers, page 22

Inspector to name 50 state secondary schools as 'beacons of excellence'

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 50 schools will be officially identified tomorrow as beacons of excellence for the state system by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector.

Chris Woodhead will take the unprecedented step of lauding a select group of secondaries in his first annual report. The move will counterbalance a series of trenchant criticisms that threaten to undermine attempts by Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, to show six

years of reforms are bearing fruit. The overwhelming majority of chosen schools are drawn from suburban and rural areas. The Anfield Community Comprehensive in Liverpool is understood to be the only school on the list with an intake drawn almost entirely from the inner city. Its GCSE results have improved threefold in two years.

Tomorrow's report will be wide-ranging, identifying junior schools as the source of greatest concern. It is expected to censure teachers for expecting too little of pupils aged eight to 11 and to judge almost one third of lessons to be unsatisfactory.

Mr Woodhead is likely to announce inquiries into the professional leadership provided by head teachers, reading standards in inner-city boroughs and the need for more specialist teaching in primary schools. His report will also highlight the deterioration in the condition of school buildings and the impact of a growing backlog of



Shepherd: says reforms are finally bearing fruit

repairs. The decision to name schools which deserve praise underlines Mr Woodhead's determination that the new inspection regime should be more "parent-friendly" and make clear judgments about schools in language that is easily understood.

The schools were picked from more than 900 secondaries inspected last year. They all received positive reports

and improved examination results by at least 10 per cent in the past two years.

Anfield Community Comprehensive is mixed and finished halfway down the league table of Liverpool schools published by the Education Department in November. But it has proved itself one of the fastest-improving schools in the country.

Eighteen per cent of pupils achieved five GCSEs at grades A to C last summer, well below the area average of 25 per cent and less than half the national average. This compares well with the first league table in 1992 which showed only 6 per cent of Anfield's pupils achieving five good passes.

The report by Mr Woodhead, who last week urged teachers to abandon the orthodoxies of progressive teaching methods, is unlikely to win favour with Mrs Shepherd. Her brief since taking office in July has been to restore relations with the profession and show that reforms are beginning to lift standards.

'Too few' female judges

BY FRANCES GIBB

The Equal Opportunities Commission has called for more women judges as part of an overhaul of the system for judicial appointments.

The commission would like to end the reliance on "word of mouth" references from senior judges which, it told the Home Affairs Committee, "could represent a serious obstacle to many women who could demonstrate their suitability for appointment in every other respect". Despite the numbers of women in the legal profession, the commission says "it is most disappointing to note that women continue to be significantly under-represented at all levels of the judiciary".

There are no women among the 10 law lords; one out of 29 Court of Appeal judges; six out of 95 High Court judges; 29 out of 514 circuit judges; 41 out of 800 recorders; 61 out of 391 assistant recorders; 29 out of 299 district judges; 34 out of 723 deputy district judges; two out of 33 provincial stipendiary magistrates.

Cabinet EU split

Continued from page 1
Michael Portillo (should) become Foreign Secretary. Nothing of the sort is going to happen. I know Douglas isn't going to retire."

St Edward said that Britain was in danger of being left behind by the rest of Europe. "What I want them to do is to lift us out of this quagmire which we have got into as a country. What we're doing is attacking everybody else in the Union. Some people believe we can change the whole thing to something which is just a get-together and nothing more. This isn't going to happen, and if we try it we do ourselves even more damage."

Sir Edward said it was a mistake for Mr Major to commit himself to a particular agenda for the IGC because if he failed to deliver "you are open to attack from all those who hate you and want to get rid of you."

Hans van den Broek, EC External Affairs Commissioner, and Jean Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, deplored Mr Portillo's robust defence of the British veto in remarks made at the world economic forum. The Employment Secretary said Britain would veto any attempt to

dilute its voting strength in the Council of Ministers, to increase the powers of the European Parliament or to scrap the veto itself.

Mr Dehaene said such an approach was unacceptable as it would lead to a Europe of different speeds, where those who wanted to go faster than their partners would do so.

The most controversial points made by Mr Santer in his speech to the forum were that Europe could not be extended to the East without a further strengthening of the present political institutions in Brussels. "The IGC could lead to a great improvement in the efficiency of Europe's political institutions without which further enlargement of the EU cannot realistically take place," he said.

Mr Santer also said that creating a European Monetary Union would be one of his highest priorities as president of the Commission. "If we want a strong European economy, we must have a strong single currency. There must be no departing from the path towards monetary and economic union mapped out in the Maastricht treaty."

Peter Riddell, page 16

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Police appeal to criminal underworld for help in finding the killer of 'a genuinely nice lady'

Son finds wealthy mother strangled on burglary estate

By RICHARD DUCE

A MAN discovered the battered and strangled body of his elderly mother after her killer apparently broke into the family's large home and murdered the wealthy widow as she slept, police said yesterday.

Luigia Fiori, 68, was found lying on her heavily blood-stained bed by her son Antonio when he became worried that she had failed to appear for breakfast at the detached bungalow they shared in Wembley, north west London. Mr Fiori, 30, has told police that he wished his mother goodnight in the early hours of Saturday morning and then got up early some hours later to watch the Australia v England Test match on satellite television. He became worried when his mother, known to the family as Louisa, had not appeared by 9.30 am.

Last night Detective Superintendent Keith Ford, who is leading the murder inquiry, said: "It is one of the worst murders I have dealt with in 27 years as a police officer. This was a brutal killing. She has suffered severe head injuries and has also been the victim of strangulation."

Police have discovered evidence that a window might



Luigia Fiori: she was beaten and strangled

have been forced at the bungalow in Barn Drive, but have yet to establish a motive for the murder of Mrs Fiori, whose family is understood to have connections with a chain of Italian restaurants.

Initial inquiries by the 30-strong team of detectives involved in the search for the killer have determined that nothing of value was taken from the four-bedroomed bungalow. Mr Ford said it had still to be established whether there had been a sexual motive for the murder. Forensic tests are still being carried out at the scene. There appears at

this stage to be no sign of anything being taken or stolen from her house. The motive at present is unclear. A sexual aspect to the murder is still being investigated by my team. One of our lines of inquiry is to establish whether there have been similar crimes in the area.

"I would appeal for local people and in particular people in the criminal fraternity, who I know from experience always help in cases like this, to supply us with what help they can. I must stress this was a particularly brutal killing. She was beaten with an implement of some kind which is not in our possession."

Mr Ford said: "It is a large house and if the attack was quick and swift it is possible that the son may not have heard what went on. It is a very large bungalow with four large bedrooms. There are no signs she put up any struggle. She was still in her bed and had some clothing on."

Mrs Fiori, widowed four years ago, "was very much family orientated, very close to the Catholic Church, a genuinely nice lady," Mr Ford said.

He said Antonio Fiori had returned home at around 11.30 pm on Friday after going out with his girlfriend. "His mother was awake at the time,



The house in Barn Rise, Wembley, where Mrs Fiori was found dead. It is on a private estate that recently became a target for burglars

they had a conversation, and Mrs Fiori retired to bed about 1 am."

At 6.30 am her son woke to watch the end of the transmission of the Test match and became concerned when, towards 9.30, his mother had not woken up. "He went into

her bedroom, some way from his, and found her dead."

Mr Ford appealed for help from anyone who had seen anything suspicious in the area between 8 pm on Friday and 8 am on Saturday.

Father Sean Flannery of the nearby English Martyrs

Church where Mrs Fiori used to arrange flowers for week-end services, said: "She was a lovely, kind member of my congregation. She had been coming to the church for years and was always ready to help."

I went over to her home in the early afternoon yesterday, and a uniformed officer told me that she had been found dead in unfortunate circumstances. Since then I have had to tell people coming to church. At the start of every mass I have told the congregation of her death. People are shocked and very upset."

Mrs Fiori's mock

tudor home is on a private estate where properties are valued at around £250,000 and are often the target for burglars. Anyone who can assist the murder inquiry can call the incident room at Edgware police station on 0181 733 3534.

Tarantino fans get it straight between the eyes

By JOE JOSEPH

THERE was good news and bad news for the 450 disciples who managed to acquire a ticket to the National Film Theatre in London on Saturday night to see Quentin Tarantino, the American director who has managed the improbable feat of making both lurid violence and John Travolta chic again.

The good news, said Tarantino, who has secured cinematic fame with his two offerings, *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*, was that they could forget film school. You want to make hot movies? Then just watch some Jean-Luc Godard films because they really kind of just get the idea across that you know, that if you really love movies enough, you can make one. You don't need to know the difference between a lens and a bag of sand.

Tarantino's would-be protégés could scarcely believe their luck. Then came the bad news: making a gripping

2½-hour movie that brazenly dances along a tightrope between humour and horror may look easy, but it's not. When an engagingly honest "wannabe" in the audience confessed that "I want to get into film-but I'm really lazy, like. What kind of advice can you give me?" Tarantino gave it to him straight between the eyes.

"No one's going to make your dream come true. The only way to do it is to say, 'I'm gonna do it, no matter what. The best way is to say, hey, I've got a script here and, I'm going to turn it into a film by, say, January 27 next year.'"

So if you pass an old warehouse during the coming year and spot some guy's car being sliced off while the song "Stuck in the Middle With You" plays surreally in the background, do not be surprised: you have merely chanced upon one of the 450 who were at the NFT on Saturday.

Fully aware of the power of celluloid imagination, Tarantino was careful to listen to the audience's various fancy theories about his movies, about their sub-text on homosexuality, or divine grace, or mercy and redemption, or about the bowel obsessions of heroine addicts.

"I'm setting out to make entertaining films. I do feel that *Pulp Fiction* is saying something, but not everybody hears that. But that's okay. That's not why I made it." He also wants to keep his audience gripped and guessing: "You can't do the crossword and watch my movies."

After Quentin, page 13



Foale: shuttle mission

First Briton ready for space walk

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE first space walk by a British-born astronaut, 35-30 take place this week when Dr Michael Foale carries out a six-hour operation from the space shuttle *Discovery*.

Dr Foale, 38, was born in Lincolnshire but is now an American citizen, having emigrated there in 1982 determined to become an astronaut. This will be his third flight and he will be testing a modified spacesuit to see if it keeps him warm in temperatures of minus 135F. He will also help to launch a satellite from the shuttle's payload bay.

The eight-day mission, which is due to lift off on Wednesday, will involve a rendezvous with the Russian *Mir* space station.

Dr Foale, who has a PhD in astrophysics from Cambridge University, will be one of three mission specialists in *Discovery's* crew of six. A Russian cosmonaut, Vladimir Titov, will also fly on the mission. Dr Foale will take part in tests to investigate how well astronauts can manhandle heavy objects in the shuttle's cargo bay.

Historian falls foul of politically correct lobby

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE increasing reliance of publishers on the American market is fostering a wave of political correctness, conservative academics claimed yesterday after Oxford University Press rejected a commissioned study for taking a traditionalist view of history.

John Vincent, Professor of History at Bristol University, had made several changes to accommodate criticisms of his survey of the development of the subject. However, the book, on which he had worked for more than two years, was deemed last month "not suitable for publication".

Professor Vincent, whose traditionalist stance has made him a controversial figure in academic circles, said the rejection was a "high-quality knifing". He placed the blame

on an anonymous "reader" who assessed his work for Oxford University Press.

Among the readers' complaints were that he had omitted the contribution of women as historians. A four-page report also said: "Current historical writing attempts to use inclusive language: people not men, the historian not solely as he."

The reader described Professor Vincent's criticism of many modern historians as a "rather said and bitter diatribe". The manuscript was said to display a "general absence of the appreciation of the project of social history".

OUP told Professor Vincent that his amendments had failed to satisfy the original criticisms of his book's approach. A spokesman said the

book, designed for students in Britain and America, did not fit the narrow criteria set for it.

Other academics with traditionalist views said yesterday that political correctness was a growing problem. Professor Anthony O'Hear, of Bradford University, a government adviser on education, said: "It is the American market that is the big bugbear. I have had no difficulties myself but one hears of a lot of examples of this kind of thing."

Chris McGovern, a fierce critic of the modern approach to history, said: "This doesn't surprise me: it is a familiar story nowadays. John Vincent is a leading historian but you have to think in a certain way to be acceptable."

Leading article, page 17

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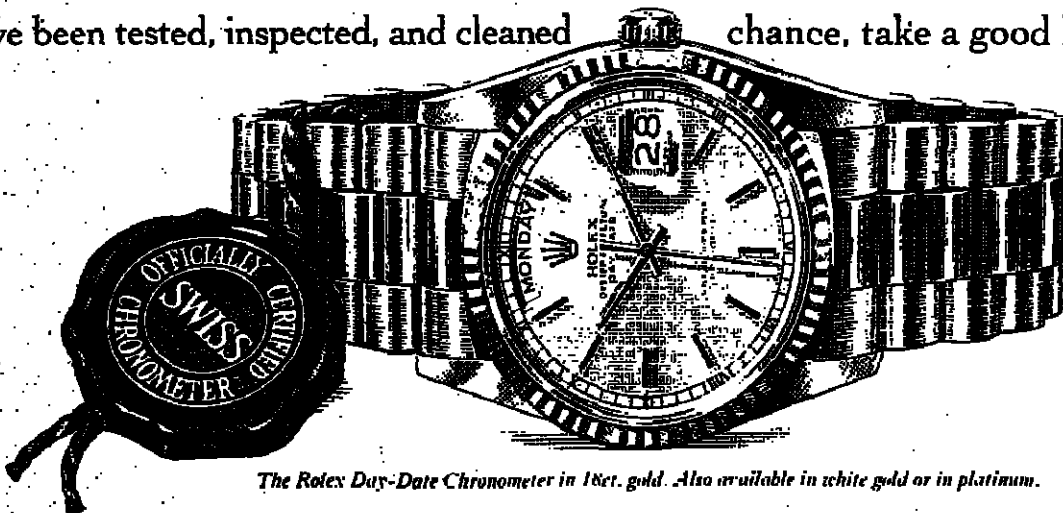
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Japanese firms reject plan to compensate PoWs

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THE RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF PERFECTION

'A dangerous myth threatens to derail the most valuable public reform programme this century'

Hail the quangocracy, bane of interfering politicians

BRITAIN is not in the grip of a dangerous "quangocracy". It is in the grip of a dangerous quangocracy myth. Over the past year it has become a political commonplace that we are being governed by an unelected state, dominated by unaccountable quangos — "Quasi Autonomous Non-Governmental Organisations". The arguments that support this idea are not only untrue; they are, in each case, the opposite of the truth. Yet the new myth still threatens to derail the most valuable public reform service programme this century.



The critics of quangocracy are seeking to destroy new forms of accountability only to return to discredited ones. Daniel Finkelstein says

different new bodies. "Next Steps" agencies, advisory bodies, purchasing authorities and public service providers have been lumped together and called quangos. But the accountability issues involved

agenda

in each are very different. The fuss over Next Steps agencies — sections of the civil service which have become semi-independent executive agencies — and advisory bodies can be dismissed quickly. Both are ways of organising the

civil service to ensure ministers are properly advised and Parliament's instructions properly executed. The Secretary of State remains responsible for both. In the case of agencies, accountability has been improved by appointing named chief executives and setting performance targets. This increase in transparency should be encouraged.

The question of purchasers and providers is more complicated. Here the critics make their second error — the failure to understand that there is more than one way to call a body to account. The traditional method is through questions addressed to minis-

ters, complaints about services, and the lobbying of Parliament. But in a massive monopolistic organisation with thousands of employees this method is hardly likely to produce satisfactory results.

Consider Aneurin Bevan's explanation of the principle behind the organisation of the NHS. "I want," he said, "to be able to hear the clatter of the bedpan in the hospital ward, in the office of the Minister." By stating this idea so clearly Bevan showed how ridiculous it is. One cannot hear the clatter of the bedpan in the next ward, let alone Whitehall.

A better principle is needed, and "exit accountability" provides it. This principle disposes of the fiction that distant politicians can control detailed public service provision. In its place, this form of accountability puts the right of the consumer. By taking their custom away from a bad provider and giving it to a good one the customer calls the provider to account. This

obviously requires services to be organised differently. Providers must be given independence to innovate, to expand and to go bust. If this independence is threatened, so is the whole idea of exit accountability. The quangocracy critics are seeking to destroy new forms of accountability in order to return to discredited ones. The attack on trust hospitals and grant maintained schools is the naked assertion of interfering politicians over the consumer.

The critics would be better employed urging the Government to press on with its changes. Independence needs to be extended and the rights of purchasers strengthened. It is also vital that purchasing is devolved to the individual. In education this requires some form of voucher system. In health the role of GP fundholders must be increased and that of the District Health Authorities diminished. This constructive agenda does not interest the critics. They are



more concerned with promoting the idea that local government should be the strategic purchaser of public services. Once again they are heading in the wrong direction. Local government is part of the

accountability problem rather than part of the solution. Britain is a unitary state. Very few people would accept that there should be wildly different standards of health provision in Lambeth and Wandsworth. This is why we have not just a health service, but a National Health Service. The supporters of local government believe that health provision in Lambeth should be accountable to the council rather than to Parliament through a district health authority. This is completely unacceptable. Health provision in Lambeth will largely be paid for by the residents of other boroughs. The Secretary of State must be accountable to those residents for the way the money is spent.

This argument, of course, applies with equal force to the services already run by councils. It is the justification for capping and other central government interventions, such as compulsory competitive tendering. There is a massive task awaiting someone brave enough to tackle the mess of local government financing. The answer may well be an increase in local freedom. But it will almost certainly involve a reduction in local council functions.

However, much of the quangos battle is being fought not on the high ground of constitutional theory but the low ground of accusations about "gleaze". The Conservatives are charged with rewarding activists and benefactors with prestigious appointments to Scunthorpe Health Authority. This "patronage state" is subverting democracy.

The critics suggest that the political opinion of appointees to any public body should be irrelevant. They are wrong. There are many bodies where the political opinions of the membership matter a great deal. These bodies are not simply executive arms of government, but devolved political decision makers.

There is no such person as the neutral individual. There are only those whose political opinions are unknown. Stuffing public bodies with members of the Grimmond and Bonham-Carter families does not mysteriously elevate them above politics. It simply makes them subject to a very predictable post-war liberal consensus.

If the Secretary of State is to be responsible in Parliament for the choices and decisions made by non-departmental bodies it is perfectly reasonable for him to appoint those who share his opinions. It may not, of course, always be wise. There may be a strong case for someone with particular expertise. There may also often be a case for political balance, which is very different from neutrality. However, on the whole, one might expect a Secretary of State to trust choices made on his behalf to those who broadly agree over the direction of the service.

Indeed one ought not merely to expect such appointments, one ought to demand them, for it will then be much easier to call the minister to account for the way the bodies act. The Nolan committee, itself a quango, and balanced rather than neutral, has begun an examination of public bodies. There are many worthwhile changes it could suggest. There is a clear need for greater openness and more information. There is certainly a need for a register of the interests of appointees and some sensible rules to govern them.

It is, however, fervently to be hoped that the committee does not succumb to the temptation of an hysterical attack on quangocracy. The new model of public service accountability needs time to succeed.

□ Daniel Finkelstein is Director of the Social Market Foundation.

Leading article, page 17

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QUANGOS AT A GLANCE

- The term Quango originated in America. It stands for Quasi Autonomous Non-Governmental Organisation and refers to private organisations contracted to perform certain functions.
- The exact definition of a British quango is shrouded in confusion. After publication of a report by Sir Leo Pliatzky in 1980, the Government dropped use of the word quango in favour of the term "Non-Departmental Public Bodies".
- Jack Straw, the Shadow Environment Secretary, has claimed that £54.4 billion is spent by what he terms "the Unelected State". £39 billion of this is accounted for by the new devolved power structures in education and health service delivery. The secretaries of state for health and education are fully accountable to Parliament for this expenditure.
- Expenditure through non-departmental public bodies was £12.06 billion in 1992-93. Using the most conservative figures this is 14 per cent less than the equivalent real cost in 1979. Suggestions that spending on so-called quangos has risen are substantiated only by including Next Steps Agencies.
- In 1979 there were approximately 3,068 of what were then called quangos and in 1993 there were no more than 2,018, a fall of almost 35 per cent.
- Executive non-departmental public bodies, which account for over 98 per cent of all public spending in this area, publish annual reports and accounts and are subject to full audit or inspection by the National Audit Office. Activities of all non-departmental bodies are subject to scrutiny by the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee.

Film company stages international comeback for girls who were every teacher's nightmare

Wildcats of St Trinian's prepare for another class war

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE fiendish schoolgirls of St Trinian's, immortalised in the cartoons of Ronald Searle, are to be resurrected in an animated feature film based on the artist's original drawings.

A Canadian film and television company, Nelvana, has bought the rights to Searle's drawings and is planning to make a 26-part television cartoon series based on the characters who were every teacher's nightmare.

David Ferguson, Nelvana's director of co-production, said that, in addition to the cartoons, he was planning remakes of the hugely successful St Trinian's comedy films of the Fifties and Sixties. The company is also in discussion with two ITV companies about a St Trinian's series for children's television, to be screened in 1996.

The actor Robbie Coltrane has been asked to take the role of the school headmistress, played by Alastair Sim in drag in the original films. Mr Ferguson said that having acquired the St Trinian's



A poster and a scene from *The Pure Hell of St Trinian's*, made in 1961. The original films, starring Joyce Grenfell, top, and Alastair Sim, above, were enormously popular

"franchise", Nelvana was now planning to market the concept around the world. "Although much of the humour seems quintessentially English, I think it could appeal in other countries.

Much of it is slapstick and that would go down very well in France, for example," he said. Mr Ferguson, whose Toronto-based company specialises in creative co-production deals that enable

films and programmes to be sold internationally, said that English humour travelled well when it was based on old-fashioned stereotypes. "The things that do best internationally are the ones

that play upon Englishness, like *Yes, Prime Minister*," he said. Nelvana, which is one of the biggest suppliers of children's programmes to the US television networks, is also

considering updating the St Trinian's setting to modern-day England. "You could have the same kind of girls and teachers in a modern setting. It could even allow for more comedy because the

way they behave is so contrary to modern life," Mr Ferguson added. The company has also acquired the rights to the Thelwell cartoons of fat little girls on ponies, which it is also planning to make into an animated cartoon series for television.

The original St Trinian's films, starring Joyce Grenfell, Alastair Sim and George Cole, were among the most popular English comedies of their time. The thoroughly horrid pupils were adept at distilling gin in the chemistry laboratory and cheating at games.

The scrapes the girls got into included kidnapping a racehorse, burning down a school, joining a harem and harbouring train robbers. The last of director Frank Launder's five St Trinian's films, *The Wildcats of St Trinian's*, was made in 1980.

The last attempt to revive St Trinian's-style humour ended in failure two years ago when the West End musical *Moby Dick: A Whale of a Tale*, described by its producer Cameron Mackintosh as a story of "salacious girls of good breeding" in a cross between the *Rocky Horror Show* and *St Trinian's*, closed within weeks.

Searle created the cartoon schoolgirl characters when he was held a prisoner of war by the Japanese in Changi jail in Singapore.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Before reading today's hand, consider these two suit combinations. How would you play

(I) Qxxx AJ9xx

for no loser? Is

(II) Qxxx AJ9xxx

any different? The hand below, from last week's Macallan Camrose trophy match between Wales and Northern Ireland is on this theme.

Dealer West

Love all. IMPs

♠AKQ98765

♥J9

♦432

♠Q874

♥—

♦Q3

♣KJ109765

♠K102

♥10432

♦107652

♣A

♠AJ9653

♥J

♦AK54

♣Q8

W	N	E	S
Glub.	Anderson	Zaman	Greenwood
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
Pass (1)	5♥ (2)	Pass	6♠
All pass			

Contract: 6♠ by South. Opening lead: ♠A

(I) Some players would double Four Spades. That is not for penalties in the tournament game — it merely says that West considers his hand a maximum for his pre-empt, and expresses the desire to compete further.

(2) Cue-bid. North South got to a reasonable slam, although I suspect it is slightly less than the 50 per cent required to make it worth bidding. Although after the pre-emptive opening East is more likely than West to have the king of spades, there is the possibility that West might have had a singleton club.

Greenwood (Northern Ireland) ruffed the opening lead in dummy and led the queen

of spades — the correct card when you have ten cards in the suit. You intend to finesse, and the advantage of playing the queen is that when East has all three missing trumps they can then be picked up. If the declarer had led low to the jack, East would have made a trump trick. But with only nine cards between the hands (combination 1 at the top of the column), it is correct to lead low towards the ace-jack, hoping for a 2-2 break but also catering for East having the singleton king.

The first round of spades went queen, king, ace, and the declarer subsequently entered dummy with a diamond ruff to play another spade, finessing against East's ten.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Tipping the balance with bold attacks

WIN or lose, some players have the ability to unbalance the struggle in virtually every game they play, creating extraordinary complications and remarkable attacking and counter-attacking possibilities.

One such player is the Russian grandmaster Eduard Gufeld who, like Falstaff, is not only witty in himself, but the cause that wit is in other men. A case in point was his fiery clash with the English grandmaster Julian Hodgson, which was instrumental in deciding the leading prizes in the King's Head tournament, London, over the weekend.

White: Julian Hodgson
Black: Eduard Gufeld
King's Head Quick Play
January 1995

Trompovsky Attack

- 1 d4
- 2 Bg5
- 3 f4
- 4 d5
- 5 Qc3
- 6 Qc3
- 7 h3
- 8 Ne2
- 9 g4
- 10 Qg3
- 11 Qf4
- 12 Qg3
- 13 f4
- 14 a3
- 15 d4-d5
- 16 c3

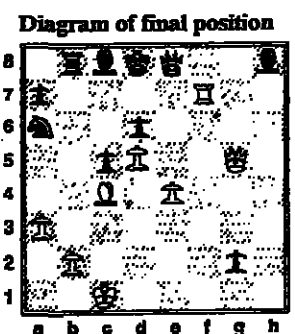
- 1 Nf6
- 2 Ne4
- 3 c5
- 4 Ng5
- 5 h6
- 6 Bg7
- 7 d6
- 8 e6
- 9 O-O
- 10 O-O
- 11 N6
- 12 N6
- 13 N6
- 14 N6
- 15 Q6
- 16 t5

Wijk aan Zee

The Russian grandmaster Alexei Dreev has won the Wijk aan Zee tournament in northern Holland, scoring one win and three draws in the final against his compatriot and fellow grandmaster Evgeny Bareev.

In the second section Britain's Michael Adams and Nigel Short share fourth position behind Tiviakov, Hulak and Sokolov.

Winning Move, page 44



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Minister sidesteps decision on new runways

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THOUSANDS of homes near Heathrow and Gatwick will have potential blight lifted this week when the Government announces that no major runway will be built at either airport.

Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, plans to tell the Commons on Thursday that the existing airport infrastructure in southern England can cope with potential growth in traffic in the immediate future. He will, however, announce another study into ways in which more jets can use the existing airports.

For five years a committee has been considering potential sites for a new runway to meet the need of airlines over the coming decades. The committee suggested a series of options to ease future congestion but made no specific recommendation.

No minister is prepared to take on the rising tide of environmental protest groups in the run-up to an election. Dr Mawhinney has therefore found a neat way out by suggesting more studies into what are known as "reliever" airports, such as Northolt and Redhill, as well as the potential building of runways close to the existing one at Gatwick to enable quiet, short-haul commuter-style aircraft to land there.

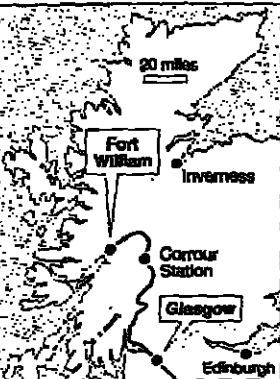
Lords balk at prospect of 500-mile drive to work

Rail rebellion looms over loss of Highland sleeper

By JONATHAN PRYNN AND GILLIAN BOWDITCH



Salmon: closing the Fort William sleeper service. There are also fears for the Inverness sleeper



THE Government is facing a revolt among Scottish peers and lords, including Alan Clark, the former defence minister, over the decision to axe the sleeper to Fort William in the Highlands and the Scottish Motorail service.

The sleeper — known as the Deer Stalker Express — is heavily used by Scottish members of the House of Lords, who can reclaim the £266 first class return fare. However, it has been running at a loss and is earmarked for closure, in the spring, before privatisation by Roger Salmon, the rail passenger franchise director.

Noble users of the overnight service, which carries 20,000 passengers a year on one of the most romantic train journeys in Europe, are faced with a 500-mile drive from London or the three-hour day train service from Glasgow.

Estate owners from Argyll to Sutherland are joining ranks with local campaigners in an attempt to save the historic service, which opened in 1901 and is one of the last elements of the Edwardian country-house lifestyle.

Lord Rankellour, the Tory peer and Rear Commodore of the House of Lords Yacht Club, who has an estate near Fort William, has tabled a written question for the Government, asking "what they consider the effect will be on

West Highland business... of their decision to withdraw their subsidy from the sleeper and Motorail services between Fort William and Euston".

Other peers are considering their transport options once the sleeper has gone. Lord Craigmyre, the owner of an 18th century manor house on the isolated Knoydart peninsula, said he would even consider chartering a helicopter from Glasgow airport at £1,000 per return journey rather than make the two-day drive from London.

"You could land it on the front lawn and if there's five of you it would not work out much more expensive than the train," he said.

Lord Craigmyre added that the closure of the service in the summer would be a "disaster" for the tourist trade and the

economy of the West Highlands. Another Scottish peer who regularly uses the line to attend the Lords said the proposed closure was "absolutely dreadful". He said he would probably still use the day service "but I shall have to go sitting up".

Lord Gairford, a Tory peer who has friends and family in the Highlands and who frequently uses the sleeper, also predicted problems for the West Highland economy if the service was closed. "It is so vital for people. I have been so grateful in past years for getting a good night's sleep and getting out at the other end feeling refreshed."

Mr Clark, who owns a 27,000-acre estate and harbour in Sutherland, and who is a frequent user of the Scottish Motorail service, con-

demned the decision to axe Highland services as "sheer idiocy".

He added: "You can drive from London to Fort William or Inverness in a day but you are absolutely exhausted the following day. You just totter about gasping. It is so much more restful to go by train, particularly in the summer when the roads are congested or in the winter when driving can be dangerous."

Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Lieutenant Commander Lachlan Ronald Duncan, chief of the clan Mackintosh and Lord Lieutenant of Lochaber, Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey, said he feared the Inverness sleeper might also soon be under threat and is leading a delegation to London about the future of the service. He said there would be "an outcry" if it were to go.

Two trains are to be sent from Glasgow to Derby by road because it works out cheaper than sending them by rail. The trains were damaged by heavy flooding in December and ScotRail and the Derby repair company, ABB, found it cheaper to ship them south by road than by rail, a ScotRail spokesman confirmed yesterday.

He declined to portray the decision as an implied criticism of Railtrack for too-high track charges. "That is very much in the political arena, and not for me to comment on," he said.



Charles I: a lock of hair was cut off 164 years after his execution in 1649

Lock of hair from head of Charles I: a snip at £500

By JOHN SHAW

A LOCK of dark brown hair from the head of Charles I, executed 346 years ago today, is likely to fetch about £500 at auction in London. The potent fragment of royalism belongs to a descendant of Hans Busk (1815-1882), the eldest son of a Welsh landowner. The owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, says the money will help pay for the education of his grand-daughter.

Busk, a collector and notable personality in his day, received the curl from Sir Henry Hallford, physician to the Prince Regent, later George IV. He acquired it when the Prince Regent authorised opening the vault of St George's Chapel at Windsor in 1813 following a blunder by workmen. They had accidentally broken through the wall of the vault during the construction of the tomb of George III. The



Hair from the king's temple and beard

Prince Regent saw an opportunity to verify historical details about Charles I's burial and when the tomb was opened Hallford removed a portion of the King's hair from his right temple and beard. Charles I was beheaded in 1649. His head was

later stitched back on and his body embalmed. It was still well preserved when Hallford described it in gruesome detail almost 170 years later.

"The forehead and temples had lost little or nothing of their muscular substances," he wrote. "The cartilage of the nose was gone; but the left eye, in the moment of exposure, was open and full though it vanished almost immediately; and the pointed beard, so characteristic of the period of the reign of King Charles, was perfect."

The relic will be sold at Bonhams in Knightsbridge on April 6. The estimate is likely to be exceeded, given the track record of other snips of famous hair at auction. A lock from the head of the First World War poet Rupert Brooke sold for £1,300 earlier this month and a twist of Lord Byron's "brownish-fair" hair, given to a friend at Harrow, made £4,620 at Bonhams in 1992.

Gangs endanger badger colonies

BADGER colonies across the country face extinction at the hands of night hunters using guns, dogs and high-powered lights, according to police and animal protection groups (Stewart Tindler writes).

In Kent, a gang killed 24 badgers despite operations by police and the RSPCA. On the

Welsh borders and in Yorkshire, badger protection groups believe gangs are devastating badger populations. They are also concerned that hunters called to exterminate other quarry such as foxes are indiscriminately shooting badgers as well.

Last week, in North Wales,

police brought what experts believe is the first successful prosecution against a practice known as "lamping". Stephen Dyson, a 30-year-old Welsh international clay pigeon marksman, was ordered to pay £1,125 in fines and costs by Llangollen magistrates for shooting a badger.

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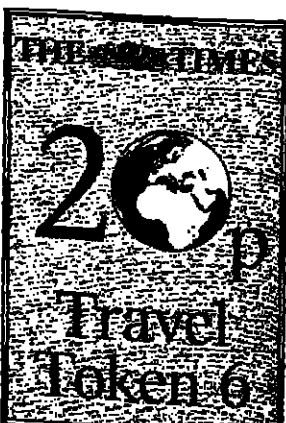
Vienna was the capital of the Hapsburg Empire and remains a show-case of imperial grandeur, with baroque palaces and a huge collection of art and treasures.

You could visit St Stephen's Cathedral, the neo-classical Parliament building, the Gothic Votivkirche, the town hall, the Opera, the Burgtheater and the museums. Or the famous Cafe Landtmann might tempt you with its coffee and famous cakes while you enjoy watching the flow of

Viennese life around you. These 2 night city breaks are based at the modern four-star Maria Theresa Hotel in the centre of the old town, just beyond the Ring and down a cobblestone side street opposite a candlelit bar.

The hotel has a restaurant, a snack bar and a cafe. All rooms are comfortably but simply furnished and have private facilities, a safe and a mini-bar.

Flights are with British Airways from Gatwick.



Finì cuts link with Fascism in bid for respectability

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Italian "post-Fascist" leader, Gianfranco Fini, ended a colourful congress of his National Alliance party yesterday after dissolving its main component, the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), in what was presented as an attempt to distance his movement from Il Duce's Fascism.

About 1,600 delegates approved, with a loose vote against, a founding charter that damned the National Alliance as committed to "freedom, justice and democracy and opposed to all forms of racism and totalitarianism". Signor Fini, 43, told a cheering throng in a marquee made of black canvas: "The post-war period is over. There is no nostalgia here. Those with nostalgia are those who want to deny the evidence. Nobody ever will be able to say that the right is synonymous with nostalgia."

A group of 100 hardliners led by Pino Rauti, a diehard neo-Fascist, declined to support the change of name and opted to form a breakaway group they hoped would retain the name MSI. Signor Fini stopped short of actually denouncing Fascism as an error in his various speeches to the congress in the spa town of Fuggi. Commentators said the relative ease and alacrity with which the MSI was laid

to rest called into question whether it was anything other than a cynical, cosmetic operation designed to increase the respectability of latter-day disciples of Mussolini without any real ideological change.

Il Messaggero said the nearly painless congress was a far cry from the birth pangs suffered by the former communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) after its leadership decided in 1989 to change the name from the old Italian Communist Party and ditch Marxism as an error.

Nevertheless, the Rome newspaper said that part of the alliance statute that recognised the value of post-war anti-Fascism as essential for the return to democracy was "at first sight the recognition of a historic and ideological discontinuity of great significance". It said in little more than two years Signor Fini had passed from being a sort of lesser Le Pen to an indefinite form of neo-Gaullist.

For the first time in post-war history the former communist PDS sent an official representative Ugo Pecchioli, a former communist partisan — to the National Alliance congress. The PDS leadership generally finds Signor Fini more acceptable than his ally, the media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi, and his Forza Italia party, because the MSI

traditionally has been anti-market compared to the free market philosophy Signor Berlusconi claims to support. Also present at the congress was Rocco Buttiglione, the leader of the Italian Popular Party (PPI), as the Christian Democrats now call themselves, who Signor Fini hopes to persuade to form a centre-right alliance.

Signor Buttiglione was whistled at and jeered by delegates in Fuggi but is known to be tempted to form an alliance with Signor Fini, a prospect that would have the blessing of conservatives in the Italy's Catholic Church hierarchy. However, Signor Buttiglione is aware that the majority of his party rank and file and other leaders would prefer to ally themselves with the PDS and the devolutionist Northern League.

The National Alliance is impatient for a formula to regain power after it lost its five ministerial posts when Signor Berlusconi resigned last month after being placed under investigation for suspected corruption.

Signor Fini claimed the year-old National Alliance would not stand in the way of the new Government of technocrats led by Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister, but reiterated his dictum that the administration should resign once it had accomplished limited tasks "in a very short period".

He said he expected to make gains in regional elections to be held in June and a general election that he and Signor Berlusconi want to contest as soon as possible.

"The National Alliance has been baptised here. It will only be blessed by our people at the first elections Italians are allowed," Signor Fini said.

The Alliance includes several right-wing survivors of the old Christian Democrat Party that was also dissolved because of its involvement in numerous corruption scandals. It won 13.5 per cent of votes at the March election.

One opinion poll published on Friday put the Alliance's current support at 17.5 per cent. Others have shown Signor Fini to be more popular than Signor Berlusconi.



Gianfranco Fini, leader of the National Alliance, addresses the party congress in Fuggi yesterday

Dudayev threatens to spread fighting

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW yesterday tried to brush off a threat by General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader, that he would extend the conflict from his breakaway republic to Russian cities.

As heavy fighting continued in Grozny, the Chechen leader demanded that hostilities cease by March and that peace talks be started with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister.

General Dudayev gave his most explicit warning yet that if this did not happen, he would take the fight into neighbouring regions of the Caucasus and into Russia. "Given the present situation and our experience it will not be difficult to burn towns. Neither tanks nor planes will be needed," said the former Soviet air force general.

"No tanks are capable of saving Moscow," he told the Interfax agency. "Beyond Moscow there are also the North Caucasus, Krasnodar, Stavropol and Astrakhan regions." His outburst may have been provoked by repeated statements from the Kremlin that it will not negotiate with General Dudayev and the announcement on Friday by Alexei Ilyushenko, the acting Russian Prosecutor-General, that the authorities have begun criminal proceedings against the rebel leader and his supporters.

The Russian Government said in statement yesterday: "One gathers the impression that Dudayev has completely lost a sense of reality while illusions, which he still entertains, are melting away like spring snow in the foothills of the Caucasus."

The Chechens appear to have the weapons, men and training to carry out their threat, as well as a network of Chechen communities in every large Russian city, some of them with close ties to the underworld.

Women protest, page 15

War on civilians forces Chechens to take up arms

As the Russians carry the war against the Chechens into the countryside, Anthony Loyd in Salji counts the human cost of air attacks

IN THE stinking Chechen hospital at Salji, south of Grozny, there are many faces of President Yeltsin's war: the burned, the blind, the maimed and the disabled. It was here that the villagers brought two sisters, through the corridors slippery with water, used bandages and human fluids.

Four-year-old Marika was missing the lower part of her back and buttocks. She was still alive, just, and her pale, doll-like form lay motionless face down on a table as a doctor removed large pieces of metal from her ragged wound. Her sister Miralya, five, wept noiselessly at one end of the table, seated on the knee of a

neighbour. She had a head wound, and blood formed a cobweb mask covering her face. Blood from her wound mixed with her tears and ran in scarlet streaks from the corner of each eye.

We had seen the Russian jet that had done this. It had swooped low above us, not more than a hundred feet, after completing its mission. The success of this mission was to become more apparent as the day progressed. By the time we reached Salji the two sisters had already arrived, driven for 45 minutes across the pitted mountain tracks from their devastated home by villagers from Mahked.

"Every day now, it is like this," Daud Basayev, the surgeon, said. "They bring us casualties from the bombing

in the mountains. We don't have drugs or facilities to treat them any more."

The situation was confused, and neither the villagers who had brought them in nor the overburdened hospital staff appeared to know what had become of the sisters' family. A local man agreed to act as a guide, and we set out to the hills, where we found them.

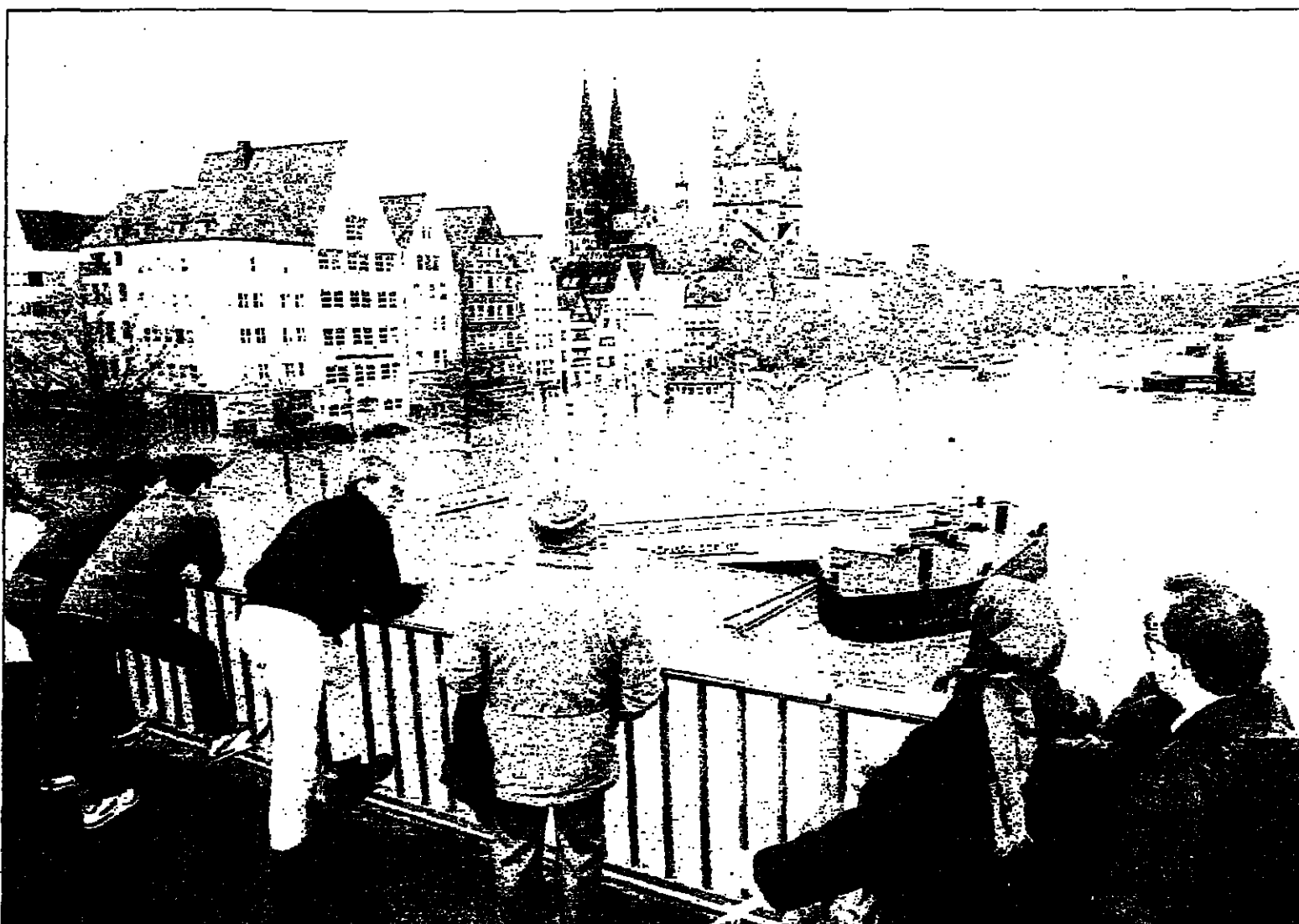
Their house was an isolated farm building a mile outside Mahked. It had the misfortune to overlook a steep bridge over a mountain stream. The bridge was still standing. Nothing else was: 500lb bombs had turned the earth black and transformed the site into a lunar landscape of charred domestic junk. Part of a car hung in a treetop nearby. The village had been raked with cannon fire.

The girls' family, their two sisters, brother and mother, were in Mahked. They were laid out on a bed in bundles, none of which was bigger than a supermarket bag.

The village elders had gathered outside the house containing the bodies. They were serene, silent, and deeply angry. They may not have hated the Russians before. They hated them now.

There are many ways to destroy a bridge that is 15ft long and made of wooden posts and corrugated iron. Dropping 500lb bombs and machinegunning the nearest women and children is not one of them, unless one wishes to terrorise a population.

This war did not begin as a war against a people, but that is what it is becoming. As the civilian death toll far outstrips that of the combatants, those Chechens that have as yet not made a choice are now realising that they shall suffer whether they are fighters or not. So they see little choice but to fight.



This was the scene in central Cologne at the weekend after the Rhine rose to a near-record 30ft, while elsewhere in Germany two people drowned in floodwaters (Our Foreign Staff writes). Vast swaths of France were under water last night after a week of fierce gales and torrential rain that have left at least 15 people dead. In the northern port of Ouistreham, near Caen, a 46-year-old man was found drowned in

Up to 20 feared drowned as floods and gales sweep northern Europe

his garage yesterday after he returned home in spite of warnings to stay on higher ground. Dozens of towns and villages have been evacuated in eastern and western France. In Paris, the Seine reached 15ft, blocking riverside

roads and making it impossible for boats to pass under the bridges. Large-scale evacuations were underway in The Netherlands. By yesterday morning more than 6,500 people had been evacuated from towns and

villages along a 56-mile stretch of the river Maas in the province of Limburg. More than a thousand troops were brought in to help build up river defences, while police closed roads to let emergency heavy digging equipment into the area. Three people died in accidents caused by severe flooding in southern Belgium and with more rain forecast, flood levels on the River Meuse could exceed those of 1993.



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TM2/PC

Dark horse joins ranks of leaders-in-waiting as end of era mood pervades Peking

Shadow of titan Deng dwarfs his would-be heirs

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

THE attempt by Deng Rong, Deng Xiaoping's daughter, to "clarify" her remarks about the declining health of China's senior leader has done little to dampen feverish speculation about who will succeed him.

Over the weekend Ms Deng denied that she had told *The New York Times* that her father could neither stand nor walk, or that he was ageing "day by day". But she admitted: "I may not have expressed myself clearly." The newspaper yesterday stood by its interview.

Also during the weekend, Jiang Zemin, the President, and Li Peng, the Prime Minister, visited Mr Deng to bring him Chinese New Year greetings. Although the official bulletin said nothing about Mr Deng's health, it reported a lengthy comment from Mr Deng, who for more than a year has been virtually incoherent, that Mr Jiang was now China's "core leader" and that "building socialism with Chinese characteristics" would continue.

It is significant that the visit was not shown on television. A recently released picture, taken of Mr Deng in October, showed him to be very feeble. Mr Deng has been a political titan, and there is a strong end-of-era feeling in Peking. It will soon fall to Mr Jiang and Mr Li to pick up the reins of power. But a "dark horse" is emerging to challenge them, in the powerful form of Qiao Shi, the former secret police chief who is now chairman of the pivotal standing committee of the National People's Congress.

Mr Deng is a short, square-faced man with a strong physical presence, a man who trudged across China on the Long March, confronted Mao during the aftermath of the ruinous Great Leap Forward and at the start of the Cultural Revolution, and returned from political wilderness to open China's doors to the outside world in 1979.

Mr Deng is also the man who suppressed the students at Tiananmen Square. Yet in 1992 he set China on its present course of dramatic economic expansion and

growing prosperity. Some kind of power struggle over this legacy is inevitable. There could even be a settling of accounts over the bloody massacre of hundreds of people on the night of June 4, 1989, with demonstrations by at least some students and workers. The authorities are certainly braced for trouble: on December 23, a bomb exploded on a bus in Wangfujing, Peking's main shopping street near Tiananmen Square, killing one man. Within minutes the area was swarming with police and security men, who appeared almost from nowhere. Central Peking is a virtual armed camp, with 2,000 troops inside the leadership compound at Zhongnanhai, within the high vermillion walls of the Forbidden City, while others wait at barracks of the People's Armed Police, an internal security force, adjoining Tiananmen.

However, serious public demonstrations are unlikely.

Whoever is finally chosen as the core leader, the campaign to build 'socialism with Chinese characteristics' will continue.

given the ruthlessness of the authorities in putting them down. "The general attitude is mind your own business, keep out of politics and stick to making money in the booming economy," one academic said.

Most political dissidents are in exile, in prison or under house arrest, or lying low. The most serious threat Mr Deng's successors have to deal with is social and economic unrest: there is inflation, corruption, growing disparity between rich and poor, unemployment and rising crime. "None of these problems is being tackled, as the

leadership-in-waiting is in limbo over Deng's approaching demise," one senior diplomat said.

Despite the fact that Mr Deng ordered the army into Tiananmen, he is popular with the mass of Chinese for improving their lives through the abandonment of state-centred Marxist economic policies. None of his potential successors even remotely matches his stature.

Mr Jiang, 68, a tubby, uncharismatic man who wears large spectacles, was Mr Deng's third choice as successor after former party chiefs Hu Yaobang, who was dismissed for being too liberal and later died, and Zhao Ziyang, who was purged after he tearfully went to meet the students in Tiananmen shortly before the crackdown.

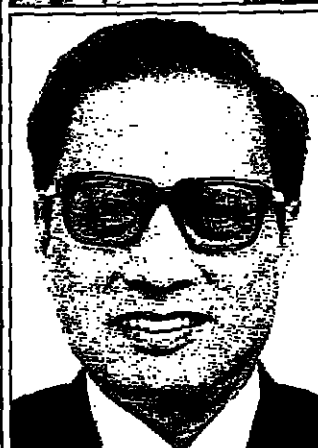
Mr Jiang has built up his support by army promotions — he is also chairman of the key military affairs commission — and by placing cronies from his former political base in Shanghai into top positions. He lacks vision, but has the advantage of not being tainted with the Tiananmen slaughter being party chief in Shanghai at the time.

Efforts are being made to boost the authority of this fairly uninspiring figure by revealing that he likes to recite the Gettysburg Address and croon 1940s American ballads. Recent articles in the *People's Daily* have called on people to "rally round President and party secretary Jiang Zemin". Mr Jiang may turn out to be a stopgap figure. His chief rival is Mr Li, who backed the declaration of martial law before the Tiananmen crackdown. He is unpopular, despite the fact he is the adopted son of Zhou Enlai, the revered former Prime Minister. Mr Li, 66, a dour and charming figure, suffered a heart attack in 1993 and doctors are always in attendance even when he visits projects in Peking, diplomats say.

What both these men fear is, in Chinese Communist parlance, a "reversal of the verdicts", a political reassessment of Tiananmen after Mr Deng's passing. Mr Deng's



Power in China may soon pass from the ailing Deng Xiaoping, left, to President Jiang Zemin, top, and Li Peng, middle, but Qiao Shi, bottom, the "dark horse", is preparing to challenge the leading candidates



family fears he may be made a scapegoat for Tiananmen after he dies.

Under the "reversal of the verdicts" it could be decided that the Tiananmen pro-democracy protest was not, after all, a counter-revolutionary movement. This would lead to Mr Li's position becoming untenable, despite the protection he has from other elderly conservative leaders such as Chen Yun, 90, China's economic supremo. "If they repudiate Tiananmen, Li Peng has to go," said one Western diplomat.

A reassessment of Mr Deng and Tiananmen could bring about the political rehabilitation of Zhao Ziyang, Mr Zhao, 76, a liberal reformer, was accused by hardliners of splitting the party and supporting

pro-democracy protesters. If none of these figures dominates the collective leadership which emerges after Mr Deng, the Communist Party "immortals" — the senior apparatchiks now in their late 80s and early 90s, who still hold immense power behind the scenes — could turn to the venerable Yang Shangkun, 87, a former President, for stability and continuity. Like Mr Deng he was a Long Marcher, and is a powerbroker who helped Deng suppress the Tiananmen demonstrations by guaranteeing the support of the Chinese Army. Mr Yang was sidelined by Mr Deng in 1992 when his ambitions became too blatant. But he is in apparent good health, despite his age, and is still respected by the army.

Then there is the "dark horse" in the race: Qiao Shi, 70, chairman of China's rubber-stamp parliament and former head of the secret police. Mr Qiao is believed to have abstained in a key vote on the proclamation of martial law in the violent summer of 1989.

Like the late Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, to whom he has often been compared, Mr Qiao is seen as a liberal reformer whose background in the security services gives him special insight into the kind of "safety valve" reforms China needs to avoid social and political upheaval.

Mr Qiao, a natty dresser, also has something the lacklustre Mr Jiang and Mr Li lack — a powerful presence and an outgoing personality. Like Mr Yang, Mr Qiao has

often visited the southern economic zones to support reform.

Last week Mr Qiao failed to attend a meeting on corruption addressed by Mr Jiang: it later emerged that he had been on an "inspection tour" of Shanghai, urging managers to "be bold" and "not keep looking over your shoulder".

If he did emerge as leader after Mr Deng, the question is whether Mr Qiao would be any more successful than Andropov was in solving the conundrum which faces all Communist reformers: namely how to loosen economic controls and allow the free exchange of ideas while at the same time retaining an authoritarian and centrally controlled political structure in the country.

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US talks fail on Chinese piracy

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

TALKS intended to halt the piracy of American computer software, films and music in China, which may lead to Washington imposing trade sanctions, ended in failure yesterday.

Mickey Kantor, the United States Trade Representative, said 100 per cent tariffs would be imposed on a wide range of Chinese goods worth up to \$2 billion (£1.28 billion) if Peking did not meet America's demands by next Saturday. It is believed that the goods would include electronics, furniture, toys and clothing.

Mr Kantor invited the Chinese to continue talks in Washington this week, but insisted that the United States was not bluffing. "With this Administration it's been quite clear that we're willing to impose trade sanctions," he said.

The United States estimates that last year 29 factories in southern China produced 75 million pirated compact discs and laser discs, mostly for export, and that this counterfeiting is costing American businesses \$641 million each year.

Mr Kantor said negotiators from Washington had been able to buy American computer software worth \$6,410 for \$64 in Peking, and that Chinese government ministries were using pirated American software "on a daily basis".

Two years ago China agreed to impose new laws banning the illegal copying of foreign products, but this legislation was never enforced.

Commenting on yesterday's negotiations, China's official Xinhua news agency said: "The US side constantly escalated their bargains, and when the talks were about to end, they raised many new issues... which led to the failure of the talks."

Rocket deaths: Six people were killed and 23 injured when China's Long March Rocket and Apstar-2 satellite exploded and crashed near the launch site in Xichang, western China, last week, the Xinhua agency said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dog patrols plan for West Bank border

Jerusalem: Israel is to deploy police dogs along its border with the occupied West Bank as part of an attempt to stop the wave of Islamic suicide attacks. (Christopher Walker writes).

The decision was announced after thousands of Israelis attending a mass rally called on the Government to declare an immediate but temporary halt to the dead-end talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Burma battles

Bangkok: Karen rebels and Burmese government troops fought skirmishes around Manipal, two days after the rebels were driven out of their headquarters for the first time in 21 years. (Reuters)

Minister quits

Budapest: Laszlo Bekesi, the Hungarian Finance Minister and architect of free-market reforms, has resigned amid growing tensions within the ruling Socialist Party over privatisation. (Reuters)

Rabbani blow

Islamabad: Jumbish-i-Milli, an Afghan faction opposed to President Rabbani, claimed its fighters had captured the strategic northern town of Kunduz, forcing the defenders to flee. (Reuters)

Fan killed

Genoa: An Italian football supporter was stabbed to death, leading to a fight between rival fans at the first division match between Genoa and AC Milan, which had to be abandoned. (AFP)

Ethnic deaths

Nairobi: At least 67 people were killed in an apparent new outbreak of ethnic killing north of Bujumbura, the Burundian capital. Local sources blamed the Tutsi-dominated army. (Reuters)

Mandela appoints new chief in police shake-up

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN PRETORIA

PRESIDENT MANDELA yesterday paved the way for a broad shake-up in the South African police force when he appointed a new police commissioner and four deputies to restore public confidence after the apartheid era.

General George Fivaz is to replace General Johan van der Merwe who resurged as commissioner on March 31. A member of the former white minority regime, General van der Merwe had clashed with Mr Mandela and was under intense pressure to stand aside as the African National Congress led a drive to transform the police force.

Mr Mandela said he was confident that the relatively unknown General Fivaz, an Afrikaans former Free State detective and later a member of the police efficiency team, would lead the process of transformation. General Fivaz, 49, said he and his four racially mixed deputies were committed to breaking with the past and pledged to reduce

the spiralling crime rate, restore discipline and morale in the force and remove all forms of discrimination.

The new team faces a daunting task in their mission to transform a force demoralised by poor pay and conditions, high mortality rates and public mistrust over attempts by policemen to secure indemnity for apartheid crimes. More immediately, they must deal with the issue of racism which has been made more pressing after a black policeman was shot dead by white riot police in Soweto on Friday during an attempt to end a strike.

The latest racial clash within the force led several police stations in Soweto to shut down or go slow at the weekend in protest against the killing and to demand the removal of white officers. Jesse Duarte, the regional Security Minister, yesterday brokered an agreement for striking policemen to return to work today. It is feared, however, that the Soweto protests

have just been put on hold and could spark action in other parts of the country.

There is also a showdown looming between Sydney Mufamadi, the national Minister for Safety and Security, and the Rev Celani Mntswa, Inkatha's defence Police Minister in KwaZulu/Natal.

In defiance of the national Government, Mr Mntswa has pledged to press ahead with Friday's passing out parade of six hundred KwaZulu police recruits despite claims that there are suspected criminals, including murderers, among the graduates.

At the weekend Mr Mufamadi rejected a proposal from the provincial minister to allow the majority of graduates to pass out as planned while recruits implicated in crimes be held back.

At Johannesburg: Twelve miners were killed in clashes between rival factions at a workers' hostel at Vaal Reefs gold mine, near Orkney, in Gauteng Province. (AFP)



Waldheim: renewed interest in his war

Waldheim is left out

New York: The United Nations will not invite Kurt Waldheim, its former Secretary-General, to the organisation's 50th anniversary celebrations here this year, averting a new dispute over his wartime past (James Bone writes). He is banned from America because of his war record in Hitler's army, but the US would have been obliged to let him visit the UN headquarters here.

Diplomats lobby for Briton to take over as head of Unicef

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN is trying to wrest control of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) from the United States after the death at the weekend of the agency's American director.

British diplomats are lobbying for Richard Jolly, a British development economist and Unicef official, to succeed James Grant, who died of cancer on Saturday after 15 years as head of the agency.

Mr Jolly, Mr Grant's deputy, was named as acting executive director last Thursday when Mr Grant succumbed. He will continue in that role until Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, chooses a permanent Unicef head in consultation with the 36-member board.

Britain's campaign for Mr Jolly began in earnest last year when it first looked as though the Mr Grant would step down. Sir David Hannay, Britain's UN ambassador, wrote a letter to other UN members seeking support for Mr Jolly's candidacy and emphasising that he would

provide "the necessary degree of continuity".

Sir David wrote: "The United Kingdom believes he has the intimate knowledge of both theoretical and applied aspects of development, the international outlook, the familiarity with Unicef and the UN system as a whole and the prior managerial record which, taken together, would enable him to be an outstanding executive director."

The British drive faces stiff opposition from the United States, Unicef's host country and the agency's largest donor, which insists that another American should take over. Mr Grant's two predecessors were both Americans.

The Clinton Administration takes the tradition of American leadership of Unicef so seriously that the matter has to be just a supposition on the basis that he once said he wanted to be buried there.

"There is pretty good evidence that Alexander was buried at Alexandria. His tomb was visited by various people. According to one account the body was in a gold coffin and one Roman emperor is said to have replaced it with a glass coffin so he could take away the gold."

Peter Fraser, author of *Proteptic Alexandria*, said: "The tradition that Alexander was finally buried in Alexandria is very firm and continuous," although "it is true that archaeologically there is no proof of burial at Alexandria."

Greek archaeologists 'find Alexander's tomb at oasis'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

GREEK archaeologists believe they may have discovered the burial place of Alexander the Great and solved one of the great enigmas of antiquity.

The most widely accepted tradition is that Alexander, who was born in Macedonia in 356 BC and died in Babylon at the age of 32, was buried in Alexandria, the seaport named after him on the Nile Delta. But all attempts to find the remains of his tomb in the city have failed.

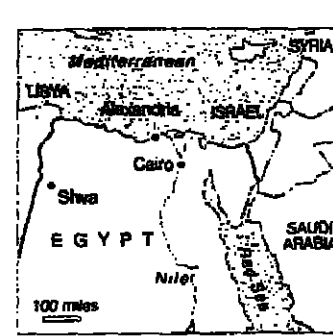
According to reports in Egyptian newspapers yesterday, a Greek expedition has found two limestone plaques that purport to show that Alexander was buried at the Egyptian oasis of Siwa, about 50 miles east of the modern border with Libya. Around 570

BC, Pharaoh Amasis built a temple at Siwa to the sun god Ammon, later identified by the Greeks with Zeus and called Zeus-Ammon. The temple oracle became famous for the accuracy of its prophecies and Alexander is believed to have visited the shrine in 332 BC, the year in which he founded Alexandria, undertaking a dangerous journey through the trackless desert wastes to reach it. The oracle addressed him as the son of Zeus and predicted that he would conquer the world.

The plaques are said to describe in Greek how Ptolemy, one of Alexander's most trusted generals and his successor as ruler of Egypt, brought his master's body to the tomb at Siwa and buried it there. The tomb is described as being 130ft long and 65ft wide, its size indicating that it must have

belonged to an important personage. The Greek expedition has been digging at Siwa for the past four years.

The news of the find was greeted with sceptical interest by scholars in Britain. Nicholas Hammond, Emeritus Professor of Greek at Bristol University, said: "There is a rival tradition



that Alexander wanted to be buried at the shrine at Ammon. It is not impossible that he was buried there and later moved to Alexandria, although that would have to be just a supposition on the basis that he once said he wanted to be buried there.

"There is pretty good evidence that Alexander was buried at Alexandria. His tomb was visited by various people. According to one account the body was in a gold coffin and one Roman emperor is said to have replaced it with a glass coffin so he could take away the gold."

Peter Fraser, author of *Proteptic Alexandria*, said: "The tradition that Alexander was finally buried in Alexandria is very firm and continuous," although "it is true that archaeologically there is no proof of burial at Alexandria."

Pakistanis make major drugs raid

FROM AFP IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTANI police and paramilitary troops have made what officials said was the biggest drugs haul in the country's history.

Thousands of police were involved in the operation. They raided a house near Peshawar being used as a drugs factory, seizing 170 tonnes of hashish and 480 kilograms of heroin, and arresting 19 people. Arms and ammunition were also seized.

The raid triggered a confrontation with tribesmen which left three dead and eight injured, including a policeman, officials said.

War threat grows as Peru stages border raid

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

FEARS of all-out war between Peru and Ecuador grew yesterday as Peruvian troops firing mortars and backed by helicopters launched a "massive offensive" against Ecuadorian forces along the shared border, Ecuador's Defence Ministry said.

International mediators stepped up efforts to end the fighting while the UN Security Council prepared for an emergency meeting in New York. A communiqué from the Ecuadorian Joint Chief of Staffs said Peruvian forces attacked the bases of Soldado Monge, Teniente Hugo Ortiz, Comandante Cueva de los Tayos with fighter jets, helicopters and mortars at 10am.



local time. The ministry said that Ecuador's forces, supported by air force units, were using all means at their disposal to repel the attack. Its air force was on full alert after more than 20 soldiers from both sides were reported killed in four days of clashes along the disputed Andean area. Peruvian forces reportedly recaptured military posts occupied by Ecuador in their border dispute and moved artillery cannons into the area.

Ecuadorian military officials said that the country's air force had pursued a squadron of Peruvian war planes flying over its territory on Saturday. They also said that Ecuadorian troops had repelled fresh attacks from Peruvian soldiers trying to overrun Ecuador's defence posts. An Ecuadorian

military statement said: "We detected a squadron of Peruvian aeroplanes flying over the border of El Oro Province. We then launched our own fighter aeroplanes forcing the Peruvians back into their territories."

El Oro Province is located 150 miles away from a huge stretch of Amazon rain forest that is rich in gold and oil reserves. This has become one of the key points of the dispute.

Simmering tension broke into open conflict on Thursday when Peruvian armed forces alleged that an Ecuadorian helicopter had flown two and a half miles into Peruvian territory and launched bombing attacks on border posts. A 1942 border treaty that awarded half of Ecuador to Peru led to clashes in 1981 but the armed conflict has never escalated to this weekend's level.

Ecuador rejected the 1942 treaty in 1960 and the rich stretch of jungle has remained in contention ever since. Ecuador has accepted most of the 1,000-mile border demarcation established by the treaty but a 50-mile stretch of the jungle-covered mountain range Cordillera del Condor border limit is still ambiguous.

President Durán-Ballén declared a state of emergency and assured the international community that his troops would not invade Peru.

President Fujimori of Peru also gave assurances that he would order his troops to stay within the Peruvian border but he said: "We will not stop from defending our sovereignty."

The Peruvian leader has been accused of fuelling the dispute because he is in the middle of an election campaign for polls in April. Opinion polls show his popularity increasing since the outbreak of armed clashes.

President Fujimori has already rejected attempts by the Organisation of American States and the United Nations to mediate in the conflict. He has insisted that he will only



Peruvian soldiers show off their weapons as they arrive at the border with Ecuador, near the town of Tumbes, after the long-running territorial dispute escalated at the weekend

accept the intervention of the four countries who are the guarantors of the 1942 Rio treaty, namely America, Argentina, Brazil and Chile.

"We want to define once and for all where the border limits are. The Ecuadorians have continually ignored the treaty," President Fujimori said. In New York Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, said that he was "gravely concerned" by the current tension.

President Menem of Argentina, whose country holds the rotating UN Security Council presidency this month, called for the emergency security meeting.

□ Rio de Janeiro: A six-storey apartment building collapsed in Guaratubá, a southern resort town in Brazil, killing at least six people and leaving more than 20 trapped in the rubble. Scores of police and fire officials were working on the rescue with the help of several hundred citizens, who were mainly friends and family of those trapped under the rubble. (Reuters)



An Ecuadorian soldier gives the victory salute as he and other reinforcements leave Patuca to join troops who were massing on the Peruvian border yesterday

FACTFILE

Tensions have roots in 1941 border war

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

□ The dispute: Peru and Ecuador fought a war in 1941 over their 1,000-mile border and tensions rise each year before the January 29 anniversary of a 1942 treaty ending hostilities, which gave half of Ecuador to Peru. Ecuador rejected the treaty in 1960. The territory in dispute is a 50-mile length of jungle-covered mountains, said to be rich in gold and oil, named the Cordillera del Condor.

□ Military strength: Peru is more than three times the size of Ecuador with twice the population and has a large military advantage over its neighbour. Peru has 115,000 soldiers and 188,000 reservists, while Ecuador has 58,000 troops and 100,000

reserve forces. The Peruvian air force has 96 planes, compared with Ecuador's 83. Ecuador has 153 tanks while Peru has more than 400, but only about 80 are believed to be operational.

□ Governments and economies: Ecuador returned to democracy in 1979 after seven years of military dictatorship. President Durán-Ballén was elected in August, 1992. The agriculture-based economy was transformed in 1972 by the discovery of oil. In Peru, President Fujimori came to power in 1990. Large areas of the country have been plagued by the Maoist Shining Path terrorists. The economy is based on sugar, cotton and petroleum.

'Revolution' gathers pace in US

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton, struggling to keep up with the Republicans, convened a bipartisan welfare reform summit at the weekend. There was no disagreement on whether the present system needed replacing, only on how.

The five-hour White House meeting underlined how dramatically America's political landscape has changed since the Republicans took control of Congress this month, and how ideas previously considered extreme have now become mainstream. These are stirring times in Washington. For better or worse, the Republican juggernaut is sweeping aside old orthodoxies and shattering the status quo, and the much-vaunted "revolution" appears to be rapidly gathering momentum.

Consider last week alone. Mr Clinton, past champion of government activism, delivered a State of the Union speech in which he embraced, albeit with qualifications, all

the fundamental Republican themes of smaller government, lower taxes, decentralisation and personal "empowerment".

The House approved the single most radical Bill in Newt Gingrich's *Contract with America* — a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced federal budget by 2002.

Tellingly, 72 mostly conservative House Democrats supported the amendment, provoking talk of a new alliance to enact much of the "contract" akin to the "Boll Weevil" alliance that backed President Reagan's tax cuts and defence build-up in the early 1980s.

Not to be left behind, the Senate overwhelmingly approved another Bill that is central to Republican efforts to return power, responsibilities and dollars to the 50 states. It voted 86-10 to stop Washington imposing costly requirements on the states without providing the necessary funding.

By contrast, the enfeebled President was unable to rally even Democratic support for his \$40-billion package to rescue the Mexican peso, and Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican leader, issued a warning at the weekend that it was heading for defeat.

In numerous ways the Administration is discreetly changing course rather than confronting the prevailing political winds. It has, for example, dropped plans to rejoin the little-loved Unesco.

Mr Clinton should not be written off, however. For all its outward unity there are deep fault lines in the Republican party — between hot-blooded congressmen and cautious senators, supply-siders and the fiscally-prudish, cultural conservatives and social liberals. The public supports the Republican agenda in the abstract, but may recoil from its painful realities.

Ross Perot could once again split the Republican vote in 1996, while the Republicans, in their hubris, could conceivably give their 1996 nomination to an arch-conservative like Phil Gramm. Compared to the Texas senator, Mr Clinton might be seen as a paragon of reason and moderation.



Gingrich: House backed his most radical Bill

Leading article, page 17

Yale nude photos destroyed

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THOUSANDS of members of America's establishment, including George Bush, the former President, can breathe easy. At the request of Yale University, their alma mater, the Smithsonian Institution has destroyed thousands of photographs of them posing naked as students.

Last Friday, the institution shredded 100lbs of the photographs while a Yale representative looked on to ensure none was preserved to embarrass or blackmail people. While Mr Bush can now relax, Hillary Clinton, cannot. Her college, Wellesley, has not yet asked for the destruction of pictures of its former students, taken for a discredited eugenics experiment.

Communion for Kennedy stirs up church divorce row

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

SENATOR Edward Kennedy is at the centre of controversy over church teachings on marriage after he took Communion at his mother's funeral despite the fact that he has divorced his wife and remarried in a civil ceremony.

Mr Kennedy was seen on television receiving Communion from Cardinal Bernard Law at Rose Kennedy's funeral in Boston last week. Dozens of Catholics telephoned church offices and news organisations and questioned how he could be in good standing with the Church, which is a prerequisite of taking Communion.

Some callers accused the Church of setting different standards for the rich and poor, and being more willing to allow powerful Catholics to get divorced. A spokeswoman for the family said the Senator's second wedding to Victoria Reggie last year had

eventually been "blessed by the Church". She would not comment on whether church officials had granted an annulment of his 23-year marriage to Joan Kennedy.

The archdiocese said it was not free to comment "whether it's a famous person or an ordinary one". Catholic teaching holds that marriage is permanent and does not allow divorce unless the marriage is found to have been invalid from the beginning and annulled.

This is granted by a church tribunal only when a person can show that they lacked the psychological maturity to give full consent, was too closely related to a spouse or had been unwilling to carry out the responsibilities of marriage. Without an annulment, remarried people are not supposed to receive Communion.

Before Mr Kennedy's second wedding, Cardinal Law

said that the powerful Massachusetts Democrat had not obtained an annulment of his marriage and was not free to marry again in the Catholic Church.

"In the eyes of the Church, Senator Kennedy is married and, like any other Catholic, as long as he is married, he is not free to enter into another marriage," the Cardinal said. During the senator's re-election campaign last autumn, however, there were unconfirmed reports that he had obtained an annulment from a marriage tribunal in the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, where he now lives.

Mr Kennedy refused to comment on the reports, saying that it was a private matter. At his mother's funeral service, the senator was conspicuously the first member of the Kennedy clan to receive Communion.

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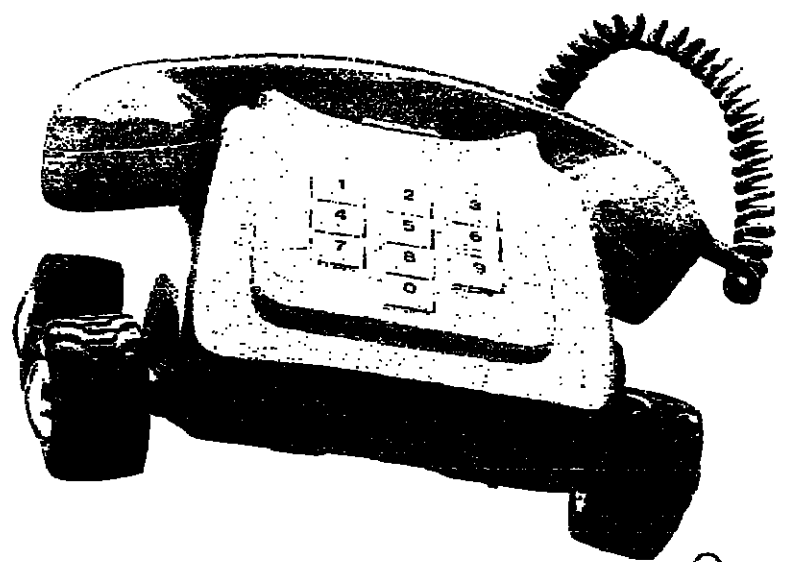
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■ FILM

The illiterate hitman and the 12-year-old girl: Gary Oldman takes the lead in Luc Besson's Hollywood debut, *Leon*.
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ OPERA

Paul Daniel conducts *King Priam*, English National Opera's 90th birthday tribute to Sir Michael Tippett.
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ POP

Reborn as romantics. Siouxsie and the Banshees show their post-punk faces in Shepherd's Bush.
GIG: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ MUSIC

In Edinburgh the Royal Scottish National Orchestra musters mighty forces for Schnittke's *Faust*.
CONCERT: Friday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

After Quentin, the rest is pulp

Kate Alderson
reports on the
addiction to
Tarantino's violent
films among
young Mancunians

Quentin Tarantino's arrival in Manchester was as eagerly awaited among the cinematically aware as Eric Clapton's appearances at Old Trafford used to be among the footballing faithful. Another bad boy, the enfant terrible of cinema, was coming to town. No amount of tickets was going to be enough.

Until, that is, he cancelled. The Cornerhouse, the city's arthouse cinema, had given warning of huge queues on Saturday morning when tickets for tomorrow's Tarantino visitation went on sale. Within a few hours scores of fans tripped up to the box office to learn that their hero was double-booked and would not be coming to Manchester during his week-long British trip.

Dedicated followers of Tarantino were a little more than disappointed at the timetabling errors. The filmmaker inspires a rare loyalty, many of his fans are serial-viewers, and in Manchester his popularity is attested city-wide by the number of his films on permanent showing.

Indeed, all of the half-dozen major cinemas in the Greater Manchester area are showing either *Reservoir Dogs*, two years old, or *Pulp Fiction*, released months ago. Some are showing both. A three-screen inner-city cinema in Manchester, 15 minutes' walk from Moss Side and in the heart of student-land, took off *Reservoir Dogs* a week ago to make room for a "blockbuster". A week later, the film is back — in a double bill with *Pulp Fiction*. What's more, a Tarantino Festival of Terror is promised. Kevin Lewis, the chief projectionist, says his cinema has run "The Dogs" as it is affectionately known, since it was released and it had proved a mistake to interrupt its success.

"The public want it, they want anything to do with Tarantino," he says. "The week we dropped it we had nothing but complaints, people asking for 'The Dogs' and *Pulp Fiction*. We are into the third year of showing 'The Dogs' non-stop; it's become an institution."

Lewis defines his audience as the twenty-to-thirty-somethings. Many are students; they love the harsh realism and black humour of Tarantino's work. "It is anti-Stallone and anti-Armie and anti-Hollywood. He is one of the few directors who is stepping outside the mainstream. And, after all, we in this country love an anti-hero."

Tarantino himself has remarked on the phenomenon of *Reservoir*



Your money or your life: Rosanna Arquette assumes the classic stance of a Tarantino character, as she robs the café in *Pulp Fiction*, released in Britain last October

Dogs taking more at the box office in this country than in America. And Mancunians, it seems, relish the cocktail of violence and black humour more than most.

Chris Fox, a 26-year-old lithographics systems operator, was aimlessly milling around the Cornerhouse on Saturday morning after learning of Tarantino's cancellation. "Everyone I know loves Tarantino," he said, proudly admitting to watching *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction* three times each at the cinema, possessing a bootleg video of both and their soundtracks. "We talk about his films a lot at work. His genius is as much about bringing back Traviolta from *Grease* and making him dance as it is about being stylistically so different."

The violence in the films, he says, is not a major talking-point among him and his friends: "We are less likely to talk about the violence than

we are about the music Tarantino has chosen to accompany the violence. Of course violence has some role to play in the attraction of his films, but it's hardly the stuff of copycat crimes."

The dark humour of Tarantino keeps Chris Caldwell, 26, a warehouse supervisor, coming back for more. As he talks about *Reservoir Dogs* his girlfriend rolls her eyes and says that not only has he got the T-shirt, but the posters, the videos and the soundtracks.

"There are no other films around that have the dark humour," says Caldwell, who has seen "The Dogs" and *Pulp Fiction* three times each. "The violence is comic-book stuff — after every piece of violence there is something funny. No other director catches my imagination like him."

Catherine Traughton, 19, and Kirsty Roberts, 18, are both students and both mistakenly turned up to

buy tickets for Tarantino a week before they went on sale. Like most who profess to be "Tara" groupies, they describe his films as controversial, different and stylised. Neither of them likes violent movies.

"The violence is realistic and gritty, it's done with a bit of panache. It has never been portrayed like this in films before," says Traughton. Stallone and Arnie have killed dozens of people, she says, but nobody kicks up a fuss about their films.

However, Simon Broom, 26, and unemployed with a waist-length ponytail, likes the films for their "guns and swearing". He admits to sitting at home with his girlfriend listening to the *Pulp Fiction* soundtrack and obsessively attempting to remember which song fits with which part of the film.

"I've seen nothing like it before," he says. "You can watch Hollywood films till you're blue in the face, but nothing shows violence or humour like Tarantino. He gets to you, makes you think, and his characters have a black, dark edge to them which makes you shiver and laugh."

Michael Roylands is the manager of the eight-screen Odeon cinema in the city centre and 12 per cent of his takings are from *Reservoir Dogs*, *Pulp Fiction* and *True Romance*. The voyeurism of the violence, he says, seems to appeal to his audience and the fact that with *Reservoir Dogs* it had been ruled unfit for video viewing. "It is the raw emotion of the characters that has an appeal and has introduced the phenomenon of repeat or serial viewing," he says. "But I rather wish people would watch *Three Colours Blue*."

Meanwhile, on Great Western Street in Moss Side, a five-strong

gang of teenagers and young men were lounging on their mountain bikes. In the broad daylight of a Saturday lunchtime all five were expressing the politics of intimidation and fear by wearing full black balaclavas with slits cut for the eyes. As women and children walked past them to the shops they glared, immobile and menacing.

When I asked if they were *Reservoir Dogs* groupies, they looked back in disbelief. "*Reservoir Dogs*," one yelled, while attempting to rip my coat open to frisk me for weapons. "This *Reservoir Dogs*," he yelled to his friends. "*Reservoir Dogs*," he yelled to his friends. "What the *Reservoir Dogs* you goin' on about? Who gives a *Reservoir Dogs* about that?"

Point taken. As Tarantino says, violence on the streets is one of the worst aspects of everyday life, "but in movies it's fun".

OVERTURES

Out of their graves

ALL it takes is a hit low-budget British film and suddenly everybody wants you, as the makers of *Shallow Grave* are discovering. But rather than go their separate Hollywood ways, producer Andrew Macdonald, director Danny Boyle and writer John Hodge are offering themselves as a triple-package with plans for two films.

First off is *Trainspotting*, a £1.5 million film about an Edinburgh heroin addict. Then comes *A Life Less Ordinary*, a £5.5 million thriller set in America with Patricia Arquette, Uma Thurman and Rufus Sewell among those being considered for roles. The trio is also planning a film for children and adults. "Something like, God help us, *The Red Shoes*," says Macdonald, whose grandfather was Emeric Pressburger, co-director of the Moira Shearer classic.

● HAVING sold seven million records in 1994 — "Love Is All Around" topped the charts in 14 countries and managed 15 weeks at No 1 here — Glasgow's Wet Wet Wet are putting the last touches to a new studio album, due for release in April. If you don't like the music, you may well like the artwork. Eighteen leading Scottish-born or based artists have agreed to paint portraits of the band members, or to interpret tracks on canvas. Among them are Peter Howson, Steven Campbell and Adrian Wisniewski. A travelling exhibition of their paintings will visit most European capitals.

● THE Indian actor Roshan Seth, fondly remembered for his performance as the drunkard father in *A Beautiful Mind*, will join Rachel Welch in *The Millionaire*, opening in the West End in May under John Caird's direction. Seth inherits the role of the Egyptian doctor played in the 1952 London production by Robert Helpmann. Welch, for her part, has some formidable forebears to compete with: that production's "millionaire" was Katharine Hepburn.

● IT MAY be 31 years old, but BBC TV's *Top Of The Pops* is resisting any impulse to settle down with pipe and slippers and a mug of cocoa. Next Thursday's edition will feature a new set, new graphics and a new theme tune, written and recorded by Erasure's Vince Clarke. And to complement the show which now commands an audience of seven million again, after a 1980s slump — the BBC is launching a *Top Of The Pops* magazine on February 22, aimed not just at teen-boppers but pop-lovers of all ages.

● CROSS-DRESSING goes distinctly upmarket in May when Deborah Warner directs Fiona Shaw in the title role of Shakespeare's *Richard II* at the Cottesloe. The production, a late addition to the National's season, reunites the duo who have worked together on *Electra*, *Good Person of Sichuan*, and, most recently, Beckwith's *Footfalls*. Hildegard Bechler, another Warner veteran, is the designer. *Richard II* is good news in view of the fact that Warner's film of *Measure For Measure*, to star Shaw as Isabella, now looks as if it won't happen in the near future.

● THE young French tenor Roberto Alagna, who made such an impression at the Royal Opera in October with his ardent singing of Romeo in the *Capulet* opera, has been rapidly booked by Covent Garden for a one-off concert. With the opera house orchestra, Alagna will perform operatic excerpts and French songs on June 7.

The future of the performing arts, and especially of opera, is uncertain in South Africa, to say the very least. They have been exclusively associated with the white minority, and the new Government may quite understandably have other priorities for funding. Although the popular Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Dr B.S. Ngubane, has been making encouraging noises, no one in the musical world is wholly confident of having a job in a year's time.

So for CAPAB Opera suddenly to launch the first Cape Town Opera Festival of four new productions is an extraordinary act of faith, and the fact that one of them is the premiere of the first full-length South African opera is a timely reminder that the form does not have to be hopelessly exclusive or Euro-centric.

CAPAB Opera has long had the reputation of being both artistically and socially one of the more progressive companies in the country. Three years ago it gave concert performances of *William Tell* in which each of the three choruses of representatives from the cantons assembling to raise the flag of revolt in the second act was sung by a choir from a different township.

Notes towards future harmony

Rodney Milnes reports from Cape Town on the operatic response to the changes in South African society

A Verdi Requiem followed, and a year ago the company instituted the Choral Training Programme, by which 21 people from townships all over the peninsula are specially taught and coached to take part in opera performances. They first joined the CAPAB chorus last September. In *Turandot*, and are now playing a crucial role in the festival — especially in the new work, Roelof Temmingh's *Enoch, Prophet of God*. The ANC was suspicious at first, but has now given the CTP its blessing.

Enoch in fact has two composers: Temmingh was joined by Lungile Jacobs for the Xhosa choral music that plays a significant part in the piece. The action is closely based on fact. In 1919 the charismatic religious leader Enoch Mgijima attracted some 3,000 followers; around half that number of Enoch's Israelites camped illegally at Ntambelanga and could not be per-

suaded to leave; on May 24, 1921, Empire Day and Jan Smuts's birthday, negotiations broke down and a massacre ensued — 380 (the official figure) Israelites were killed. Enoch's Israelite church still exists — he himself died in 1928 after a period of imprisonment — and a delegation of four bishops came to the premiere of the opera on Tuesday.

The libretto by Michael Williams, who also produces, sticks closely to the facts, but tactfully introduces some love interest: Enoch's militant lieutenant Moses marries Zandile, daughter of a black landowner whose complaint to the district officer John Ntshingale precipitates the tragedy. Ntshingale, the anguished "liberal", has his counterpart to Moses in Tom Jenkins, head of the local militia. The action, with its pre-echoes of Sharpeville and Soweto, is inescapably here and now.



Roelof Temmingh's *Enoch, Prophet of God*, as staged in Cape Town: the first full-length South African opera

Temmingh has been through all the correct modernist procedures in his time, but here contrives a tonal musical language of appropriate directness that in no sense talks down to its audience or its subject.

The music for Enoch and his followers has just the right heartfelt fervour; the Empire Day garden party is a riot of bitter irony *d la* Shostakovich, with squealing woodwind and

besquees; the mourning over the dead — Moses is of course among them — is not unworthy of the Prokofiev of *Alexander Nevsky*. These are good models.

I attended the public dress rehearsal, at which the invited audience was predominantly Xhosa. Reactions to a piece so utterly unparading in its approach were fascinating.

Openly racist sentiments at the garden party drew edgy

laughter: Jacobs's Xhosa music for the Israelites' celebration of the Passover invited and nearly got audience participation: the machine-gunning of unarmed protesters to the battering violent sound of a full orchestra left at least one member of the audience numb with horror.

When has opera last been so inextricably intertwined with the society for which it was written? I think one would have to go back to early Verdi, or Weill.

The performance was extremely impressive, with excellent playing from the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra under David John Scarr. Abel Keishepile Motsodi, still a student at the Cape Town University Opera School which works closely with the company, had just the right charismatic presence for the title role and a baritone voice of great natural beauty.

Sibongile Mngoma (soprano) and Marcus Desando (tenor) were both touchingly ardent as the lovers, and Gordon Christie made great impact as the implacable tenor architect of the massacre.

Choruses of both Israelites and settlers were superb.

I also saw *Nabucco* in a traditional production by Christine Crouse, who resisted the temptation to update the not-irrelevant action to recent Cape Town *Travolta* featured a necklacing, which caused a bit of a stir. There was alert, taut playing from this time, the Cape Philharmonic under Renato Palumbo, who knows how to make the most of this music.

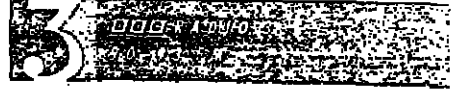
The young American soprano Kathleen McCalla was singing her first Abigail: she has the notes and musicianship to go with them, and gave an infectious fearless performance. Mauro Agostini was the unsparingly loud, stund-and-deliver Nabucco; there were promising performances lower down, from Isabella Van Zyl (Fenena) and Henk Klijnhans (Abdallo). But it was the chorus's evening, nearly 100-strong and of every hue (which in South Africa is an awful lot of hues): "Va pensiero" could not help but be overwhelming.

In both *Enoch* and the Choral Training Programme CAPAB has put down its marker for opera as something that can shape and heal society. A doubtless naive outsider can only admire them and wish them well.

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Researchers find a clue in long-term HIV survivors □ When we are spoilt for choice □ A better way to forecast typhoons with computers

ABOUT one person in 20 infected with HIV seems able to survive for a very long time without developing the symptoms of Aids. Now the study of such people has renewed the hope that an effective vaccine against Aids may be possible.

Three studies in the current *New England Journal of Medicine* examine long-term survivors, and try to explain why they have beaten the odds. Most of them have been infected with HIV for more than ten years, and some for over 15; yet they remain healthy, with a vigorous immune response. They have not shaken off the infection, but they have held it at bay.

One of the reports, from a team led by Dr Frank Kirchhoff, of the Harvard Medical School, shows that in one 11-year survivor, the virus appears to have lost part of a gene called *nef*. This man, a haemophiliac, has almost certainly been exposed over the years to HIV more than once — but the infection with the *nef*-deficient form of HIV appears to have

Vaccine hope for Aids

protected him from infection by more virulent strains.

The observation tallies neatly with work done at the New England Primate Centre in Boston, and published in 1992. This showed that macaque monkeys infected with *nef*-deficient SIV (the simian equivalent of HIV) had remained healthy for two years, while those infected with a complete SIV had died of Aids within a year. These animals were also immune to an attack from a virulent strain.

The Aids community has known of Dr Kirchhoff's observation for



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

some time, and other researchers have looked for the same gene deletion in other long-term human survivors, so far without success — but the finding is exciting, nonetheless.

It suggests that a "killed" or attenuated virus might serve as a vaccine. At the Wellcome research laboratories in Kent, a prototype *nef*-deficient SIV vaccine has been developed by Dr Erling Rud, who has

shown that it protects against both virulent SIV and against a virus in which the surface proteins of SIV have been replaced by those of HIV-1.

As Dr Jim Stott, of the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, writes in the *MRC News*, these are promising results. "The attenuated virus induces a protection against an immunodeficiency virus that is far more potent than anything yet devised."

The difficulty is knowing whether such a vaccine will ever be safe for widespread use. This anxiety was heightened by recent results that showed that an SIV vaccine, immobilised so that it was unable to give the disease to full-grown macaques, could still infect newborns.

Dr Stott does not despair, however. He believes that there may still be "alternative, and less hazardous, strategies". Nor is this the only way forward. The Medical Research Council has shown that protection against SIV can be provided by the use of a vaccine made from proteins found on the surface of the white blood cells that are responsible for rejecting organ transplants.

It all suggests, says Dr Stott, that in Aids research things are not as desperate as they may appear. "The message is that there are grounds for hope," he says.

Options



If you want people to stick to the status quo, offer them plenty of alternatives. When people are faced with lots of choice, doing nothing becomes, paradoxically, more attractive.

This truth is already intuitively known to estate agents, says Dr Donald Redelmeier, of the University of Toronto. But he has recently shown that it also applies to doctors faced with the bewildering range of choice offered by modern medicines.

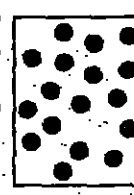
"Estate agents know that if they want to make a sale, they shouldn't show you too many different houses," he says. But doctors are surely too sophisticated? Not so.

He asked a group of GPs, neurologists and neurosurgeons to make choices, where half of them were given two options in the treatment of a patient, while the other half were given a third possibility as well. The decision was whether or not to prescribe

drug treatment. Given a straight choice between drug or no-drug, 72 per cent opted for the drug. But when given a more complex choice, with two drugs to choose from, only just over half prescribed either.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, suggests a strategy for those opposed to, say, the Labour Party's plans for devolution. Rather than asking people to choose between this plan and no change, opponents should come up with lots of alternative plans of their own, embarrass the electorate with choice, and finish up where we are already.

Wind test



A CHANCE meeting in Peking has led to a dramatic improvement in the ability to forecast the course of typhoons. Dr Johnnie Chan of Hong Kong City University heard a lecture by Professor Julian Hunt, chief executive of the Meteorological

Office, and went up afterwards to tell him he could make the forecasts much better. He was right.

The trouble with typhoons is that there are not many measurements of the temperatures, winds and the pressures immediately around them, for understandable reasons. Forecasters had hitherto used plausible but invented values, feeding them into computer models of the atmosphere and using them to predict the movement of the typhoon.

It worked poorly, no better than an older method in which the typhoon's course was predicted simply on the basis of what similar storms had done in the past. Dr Chan's idea was to improve the computer method by taking into account the direction and speed of the storm itself, reasoning that this would give the winds around it an asymmetrical pattern.

Feed into the computer, this change has just about doubled the accuracy of the forecasts. Last October, the new method was used to predict the complex movement of a typhoon called Wilda, travelling in the Pacific, with great accuracy.

Back to basic instincts

Matt Ridley talks to the naturalist who studied ants and then fought to change our view of human nature

Edward O. Wilson's autobiography, *Naturalist*, has just been shortlisted for a National Book Critics award in the United States. This is the Harvard zoologist's third book to receive such a nomination. He has also won two Pulitzer prizes, a national medal of science, the gold medal of the World Wide Fund for Nature and many other medals. Wilson is among the most decorated, literate and famous scientists in the world today.

And all for what? Ants. He set out to be, and is, the world expert on ants. True, he used the knowledge thus gained to revolutionise ecology in the 1960s, explain human nature in the 1970s and lead the campaign for saving tropical forests in the 1990s, but these were just detours from a life devoted to collecting, describing, experimenting upon and being obsessed by ants.

He is living proof that to be a great scientist you do not have to be a mathematician, or a supreme theorist or even a splendid technician. You can be a naturalist instead.

"Naturalists are pattern discoverers," Wilson says. "The strongest evolutionary biologists have been naturalists. It's the royal road to success, the road Darwin took. It gives you a finger-tip familiarity with new phenomena that is vital to



Edward O. Wilson: not afraid to grab a snake

seeing the patterns in life." Those long childhood hours spent with the collecting jar and the sweep net are, he implies, the best apprenticeship a biologist can have.

Thirty years ago this was a very unfashionable view. The structure of the gene was cracked by an ex-physicist (Francis Crick) and a biochemist (Jim Watson) making models out of metal. They ushered in a new age of molecular biology, contemptuously dismissing the old naturalists as "stamp collectors". From now on, they said, biology would happen indoors.

At Harvard, Watson himself led a bitter campaign to turf out Wilson and his cronies

from the biology department. "I found him the most unpleasant human being I had ever met," says Wilson in his autobiography, "the Caligula of biology." Shown these remarks before the book was published, Watson merely agreed that he must have been insufferable.

Ironically, molecular biology is now dominated by the most tedious of stamp-collecting jobs — the cataloguing of genes — while evolutionary biology has been revolutionised by the concept of the "selfish gene". It was an idea Wilson did as much as anybody to promulgate, in the book that shot him to fame, *Sociobiology*, published to great controversy in 1975.

The key to understanding why this solitary, polite and studious ant-man from Alabama should have become so embattled lies, he agrees, in an incident in a swamp in Alabama near the small town of Brewton in the summer of 1944. Fifteen-year-old Wilson spent many solitary hours there, catching snakes for fun. One day he stalked a venomous cottonmouth in a stream. His autobiography takes up the tale:

"It was the largest snake I had ever seen in the wild, more than five feet long with a body as thick as my arm and a head the size of my fist. I moved into the snake handler's routine: pinned the body back of the head, grasped the neck behind the swelling masseteric muscles, and lifted the snake clear of the water. The big cottonmouth, so calm to that moment, reacted with stunning violence. Throwing its heavy body into convulsions, it twisted its head and neck slightly forward through my tightened fingers and stretched its mouth wide open to unfold inch-long fangs. A fetid musk from its anal glands filled the air. In the few seconds we were locked together the morning heat became more noticeable, reality crashed through, and at last I awoke from my dream and wondered why I was in that place alone. If I were bitten, who would find me? Just in time he threw the snake clear. "I am a risk-taker by nature," says Wilson today. "For various subconscious reasons I like to test myself to the limit." In 1975 social science's contempt for biology was just a big snake to be grabbed.

So he completed his book on how genetic self-interest explained animal behaviour, Wilson decided to add a chapter saying that the same principles apply to human beings. All hell broke loose. Marxist scientists wrote to newspapers all but accusing him of Nazism. Student activists disrupted his lectures. Nihilists seized the microphone and dumped iced water over his head to prevent him speaking in a debate.

All this for daring to challenge the absurd orthodoxy of the social sciences, that there are no such things as instincts, that, in effect, stomachs and testicles may be programmed in the genes, but not hunger or lust. Wilson is still stunned by how powerful political correctness can be even when peddling obvious falsehoods.

"Most social scientists," he says, "were too timid to breach the formidable barriers of political correctness." But does he not accept that even talking about the genetics of behaviour might play into the hands of those with evil, eugenic designs? "Knowledge itself can never harm humanity," he replies. "Only politics can do that."

Ten years after *Sociobiology*, with the battle for



Weaver ants with a caterpillar. "The best evolutionary biologists have been naturalists. It is the royal road to success, the road Darwin took"

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Ten years after *Sociobiology*, with the battle for

recognising that genes can play some role in behaviour largely won, he suddenly took up politics himself when he leapt aboard and began to steer the bandwagon of biodiversity. "We realised," he says, "that we scientists had a responsibility to sound the alarm about species extinction. Governments were ignoring the issue and conservation societies simply did not have the science to bring it home to people."

He wrote *The Diversity of Life*, which has become a bible to these alarmists, at the rate of extinction caused by the destruction of tropical rainforests. Unlike others, Wilson was prepared to put a figure on it, estimating from his own theories of island biogeography that 27,000 species are "doomed" by forest loss every year. Other scientists have

criticised these figures, but Wilson insists that if anything they are conservative. This time political correctness is on his side.

Of all the great naturalist-biologists that have lived since Darwin's death, Wilson is the one who most resembles him. They share an insect-collecting youth. For Darwin it was beetles, for Wilson ants. They share a literary genius, writing voluminous, simple and lively prose; for both, writing is inseparable from doing science. They share a fascination with detail: Wilson's books on ants are as compendious as Darwin's on barnacles. They share a moth-like attraction to the flame of controversy, tackling the great question of human nature armed with nothing more than an entomologist's bravado.

But when asked which dead scientists he would most like to meet, Wilson does not answer

Darwin. His choice is a naturalist-explorer, Alexander von Humboldt. Humboldt, he says, quoting Scott Fitzgerald, was the last man to come upon the "fresh green breast" of the new world: the first great naturalist to explore the South American rainforest, in 1800. "Tell me again about the Orinoco, I would say to him, share with me the emotional texture of that first contact with the rainforest."

But did he not experience something similar himself when he first visited the tropics? "True, I was the first person to collect ants in the New Hebrides, and I still get a special feeling when I go into the rainforest. But imagine being the first naturalist into Amazonia!"

● *Naturalist* is published by Island Press, Washington DC. (Tel 0101 202 232 7533) Matt Ridley's book *The Red Queen: sex and the evolution of human nature* is published by Penguin.

Exploring the field of the clothes of gold

Arlette Kouwenhoven on research into Tutankhamun's dress sense

The tale of Tutankhamun's tomb, its discovery in the Valley of the Kings by Howard Carter in 1922, the riches that were found inside, and the premature deaths met by so many of those who worked on the "cursed" site, is the stuff of archaeological folklore.

Carter's writing on the excavations ensured cult status in the annals of Egyptology for himself and his dedicated young Pharaoh: "As my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room appeared slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues and gold — everywhere the glint of gold." The tomb was the richest ever found. There were ornate gold couches, thrones, chariots, ceramics and jewellery.

There were also clothes, all but ignored until now, in huge chests, tied around statues, and scattered over the floor and furniture. Some were narrow rolls of fabric; others were elaborate ceremonial robes covered in sequins, embroidery and gold.

But Carter's premature death in 1939 meant that his work got only as far as discussion of the more obviously precious finds. Now the

textile-archaeologist, Dr Gillian Vogelsang-Eastwood, has subjected the fabrics to a detailed study, and early results are providing new insights into the life of the Pharaoh.

"There was a belief that nothing could be done with the clothing because of its bad condition," she says. "But that's nonsense, for we have Carter's notes, drawings and photographs to help us."

Her first move was to have the clothes copied and remade. "In order to understand the clothing," she says, "you have to wear it. When I am at home I sometimes dress like an Egyptian, and my students even wear the clothes in the streets of Leiden."

The "knitting brigade", as they became known, were mocked at first. But their achievements could not be ignored. One piece of cloth, which consisted of a tube and two circular flaps, had been described by Carter as a kind of headgear "with wings". But Dr Vogelsang-Eastwood could not make the piece stay on her head. Finally, by putting her arm through the tube, and fitting the flaps across her chest (and doing the same with



Gauntlets probably used for chariot-driving; Carter, second from right, in the tomb

the other arm) she found she was wearing an adornment similar to the symbolic wings of the falcon, which appears frequently on the Pharaonic clothing of extant paintings and reliefs.

However, the range of garments identified is relatively small. There are loincloths, bag-nics, shawls, sashes, gauntlets, and headgear which Carter mistakenly described as "apron-shaped loincloths". There are also tiny clothes worn by Tutankhamun as a nine-year-old child king.



Gauntlets probably used for chariot-driving; Carter, second from right, in the tomb

Perhaps the most unusual find, however, was the socks. It had always been assumed that the ancient Egyptians wore sandals on bare feet. There isn't even a word for socks in their vocabulary. But socks these are, though more in the Japanese style than the European, with a notch next to the big toe so they can be worn inside a sandal.

As a result of her investigations, Dr Vogelsang-Eastwood has established that Egyptian royals wore clothes similar to the common people in shape and fabric (which was always linen), but with rank signified

in the decoration of beads, glass and gold. Men and women wore identical clothes, solving problems of androgyny with differences in hair style, make-up, and sandals.

In his role as a priest — which required very different dress from the kingly robes — Tutankhamun was one of the first champions of imitation leopardskin. Fit only for the back seat of Ford Corinas today, the fake pelts, made from embroidered linen, were seminal priestly attire in the second millennium before Christ. Artificial heads, made out of wood and gold, added to

the authenticity of the costume.

Some things cannot be tested by recourse to contemporary sources. Scanning electron microscopes were used to study the fracture morphology of the fabrics, and showed evidence of wear and tear to suggest frequent washing of the tunics. This is not ornamental burial memorabilia, then, but clothing that covered the bodies of men and women who have been dead for more than 3,000 years.

Real insight into Egyptian life in the "New Kingdom" of 1550-1069 BC is provided by these discoveries. But time is running out to answer the question that remain. Seventy years neglect have done nothing to the fabrics, and a lack of finances jeopardises the mission. Further research is depend on investment in business. Dr Vogelsang-Eastwood is even hoping the fashion company might have an interest, providing her with a show inspired by measures.

For as long as finance lacking, the last mystery of Tutankhamun will remain solved. As Carter wrote in his journal: "mystery of life still eludes the shadows move but dark is never quite dispers."

WHY NOT TAKE A LEAF OUT OF THE BOOK OF THE UNDERWORLD?

Is nursery education about to take off in the UK? This week The Times Educational Supplement's first 'Early Years' Extra examines the politics, provision and priorities for the nation's youngest children. It's essential reading for anyone working with the under-fives.

The TES. At your newsagent, even Friday. Make it your policy to buy a copy.

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE IT.

How to get the better of a Paxman

Do you want to give the perfect soundbite? Keep it light and bright

Do you know how to tell when a journalist is getting bored with your exposition? Look out for "a lowered head, lack of eye contact, fiddling with a pen, doodling or clapping the face with one or both hands". Or, in the case of one old colleague of mine, for the moment when he nods off completely while leaning on his elbow, and it slips off the table and causes him to crash face downwards and give himself a nasty nosebleed.

So for pity's sake, if you must go out into the marketplace and promote your message, keep your act light and bright. Memorise certain key phrases such as "Our industry is necessary to maintain the high standard of living we have all come to expect", and "Councillor Thomas is a long-serving and much respected member of the planning committee". These will serve instead of answers. Don't play with your cufflinks. Ensure that the interviewer knows who you are. If on TV, sit on the tail of your jacket lest it ride up. Avoid half-moon glasses. Remember that the newspaper reporter may be a nice person, but her editor probably isn't. Okay?

I have been immersed in the latest handbook for interviewees in the modern publicity machine. That advice is from Diana Mather, who runs a media training company, in *Surviving The Media* (Thorsons, £7.99). She has even persuaded Sir Bernard Ingham to write her an appreciative foreword. Mind you, from my shuddering memory of reporting EC summits in the early years of the Thatcher Government when he was press secretary, it would have been more appropriate to provide reporters with a manual called *Surviving Bernard Ingham*.

I digress. Ms Mather does not belong to the Ingham school of press relations and is aware that most interviewees can't afford hauteur. Her advice, whether on translucent face powder or embargoes, is sound. But still, it makes the heart sink. Mine, anyway. "Media training" has had that effect ever since the industry was born.

There is a terrible pathos about capable, productive, energetic grown-up people who run real industries and hold heavy responsibilities having to be told to sit up straight, memorise soundbites, do

breathing exercises, and remember to eat a glucose sweet before confronting — what? Probably not a Paxman at all, but some ignorant whipper-snapper who knows nothing about their profession and cares less.

When I was in my twenties and even more ignorant than I am now, I used to help out on courses for bank officials, doctors, local authority executives and industrialists. There was always something depressing about seeing an expert, a professional twice your age who handled huge budgets or saved lives, reduced to sweating and trembling just because there was a microphone or camera in the room: the sense of unfair advantage was so intense I got softer and softer on them, and eventually was not asked back.

The unfair advantage is, I suppose, all the more reason why courses are necessary. Yet the whole idea of "media-friendliness" as a discipline in its own right seems to push us ever further away from any real idea of constructive discourse. We all know that the best people are often disastrous on the air.

The ones who write the good books, make the great discoveries or have a genius for commerce are not necessarily the ones who are good at soundbites and positive posture and keeping reporters awake.

There is, growing up invisibly in our midst, a whole tribe of vital but voiceless people. We do not know them, but we know a hundred of their glib, meretricious colleagues and are in danger of starting to think that the visible ones are the ones who matter.

In the end, because politics has become a matter of images, and because more prestigious than manufacturing, perhaps they are. I have seen the future, and it smirks. So read this book, learn the lessons: find out what bi-media can mean to you, practise natural-looking smiles in the mirror, avoid fussy necklines, keep lists of friendly reporters however gormless. And go to the lavatory.

Unless, of course, you are like one venerable parliamentarian who once refused my own programme researcher's polite offer of an escort to the Gents with the words: "No, girl, no. I speak with more passion on a full bladder."



LIBBY PURVES

Margot Norman discovers how to make a drama out of a crisis at the National



Team spirit: Geraldine Fitzgerald, left, had to step down when she hurt her leg. Joanna Myers, right, took over and gave a sparkling performance in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*



A star is born, for one night only

The understudy said: "Well, that was one of those classic nights in the theatre" and leapt across the stage to adjust the ice-bag under the leading lady's aching leg. The scene in the leading lady's dressing room the following day was classic, too, but not in the way you might expect from the tears and tantrums on stage and off in *Sunset Boulevard*.

Joanna Myers and Geraldine Fitzgerald were following a different script entirely, all modesty and National Theatre team spirit.

Miss Myers' cheeks were still pink from her triumph of the night before when, with only one more preview to go before press night, she had been bundled into Miss Fitzgerald's costume and on to the stage of the Olivier Theatre to give a sparkling, word-perfect performance as Mistress Alice Ford in Terry Hands's new production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

What an exhilarating National Theatre debut after 15 years in provincial theatre and radio drama. Half the audience didn't even realise they were watching an understudy. The only clue for those who did not pick up the discreet substitution slip on their way in was that the dress was

made for somebody taller. Miss Fitzgerald was elated, too, because the physiotherapist had just told her she could safely reclaim her role that night without damaging her injured leg (she tore a muscle dancing with glee after shutting Falstaff in the laundry basket). Miss Myers, for whom this news meant relegation after her one night of glory to the role of an anonymous townswoman, managed splendidly not to look as if she had just been dumped by the emotional seasaw.

I asked Joanna Myers her age, and she said 36. Geraldine Fitzgerald looked astonished: "God, you can't be! You look about 16 on stage." Myers said it was awful, she couldn't help looking young and it was often such a disadvantage with casting directors. "I wish I could grow a few more of these," said she, flourishing an invisible grey hair. "Darling,

don't knock it," advised Fitzgerald, before bemoaning her own tendency to be typecast as a *femme fatale* on account of being tall, dark and... eh... "striking?" suggested Myers. "By the way," said Fitzgerald, "the lovely soprano I hear in the chorus, is that you?" Myers confessed, yes, if very lightly was.

Although the two actresses had never met before this production, the leading lady said she recognised her understudy's name from radio drama. She wouldn't allow that anyone might have heard of her though, despite her substantial track-record at the National, the RSC and in the West End. "Anyone who claims to have done so is thinking of the American Geraldine Fitzgerald, who's about 80. I hadn't heard of Richard McCabe and he hadn't heard

of me before we found ourselves playing husband and wife in the *Merry Wives*, so we have a joke about being total nonentities apart from Denis Quilley, who plays Falstaff. There is no star trip at all on this show, it's a true ensemble piece and everyone is part of the company."

Joanna Myers once abseiled into a monstrously deep black cave in California, and felt she was doing so again last Tuesday night. "At the end, though, you're left with what the psychologist Maslow calls a 'peak experience', which is what we're all searching for in life. We die without them, that's why we become actors."

Fitzgerald nodded, having had a similar experience at Stratford while understudying for Penny Downey in the double role of Hermione/Perdita in *The Winter's Tale*. Downey retrieved the role after just one night's absence,

too, and what's more did so with her leg in plaster (you couldn't do that in this show: the entire cast is in perpetual lively motion). "It's like getting a permanent short straw being an understudy. You always have to be on standby."

Tuesday night was a tough experience for Fitzgerald. "I felt as if I was playing truant, passing through a deserted stage door and getting home in time for the 9 O'Clock News. I was tempted to stay and watch Joanna, but it wouldn't have been cricket. I wrecked an ankle in a show many moons ago by going on and doing all that the show must go on nonsense, and I wrecked my voice by going on with a throat infection. When you have the luxury of an understudy you realise you'd be a mug to do it again, because you can live with an injury for months, longer after the play has become history."

Time for the leading lady to go and get frocked up. She disappeared down the corridor, still hobbling badly, and like a fool I wondered aloud if the leg would hold out. "Oh don't say that!" the understudy looked stricken. "I've just about calmed down and I don't want to have to psyche myself up again."

She did her best to show me out, but it was no good. We were lost, bamboozled by corridors full of identical green doors. Behind each was a confusing mixture of rural Elizabethan fashion and fur coats for the weasels from the Wild Wood. Despite 15 years in the business, Joanna Myers looked like a new girl at school.

The National Theatre is a bit like a new school, actually. "They have their ways of doing things here, and you have to learn them. And to be honest, being an understudy is quite a shock to one's ego."

It must be, indeed, be a comedown after playing Ibsen heroines, as she has done. "But still they take the understudy run-through seriously here. Somebody might just say 'well, she's been around for some time but she's only just joined the company, we'll let her read for something else'."

Mother Russia marches on Moscow

Richard Beeston reports on the second front that is putting the Kremlin's generals to shame

On a frosty morning in the Russian capital a well dressed middle-aged woman recently snarled Moscow's grey-faced commuters by doing the unthinkable. Approaching a locked door at the entrance to the imposing white facade of the Defence Ministry she banged on the window of the guardroom shouting: "Where is my son? Give him back to me."

Her protests were ignored by the shamed officers hidden behind the entrance gate, but the act symbolised

the growing sense of anger and frustration among a cross-section of Russian society who are trying to stop their children dying in the war in Chechnya.

Although Russian men have traditionally gone into battle for Mother Russia, this time Russia's mothers want their boys to stay at home and are fighting against the once powerful military establishment. Dressed in neat fur hats, woolly scarves and winter coats, the mothers make an unlikely force. However, their street protests and media campaigns, including tips to help soldiers to desert from their units, are beginning to have some success. So far, an estimated 3,000 teenage soldiers have been spirited out of their units by anxious parents, some of them taken away from their frontline positions.

In one amazing episode a group of some 35 women crossed Russian and Chechen front lines to enter the besieged Chechen capital Grozny looking for their captured sons. Their only protection against fierce bombardment was a hand-painted banner stretched across their bus which read: "Soldiers, don't kill your mothers."

Tatyana Znachkova, a volunteer at the Committee for the Mothers of Russian Soldiers, said that this sort of courage was typical. "When Yelstin declared his war in Chechnya we declared our war on him," she said.

The organisation, based in a small, crowded office in a side-street near the Lubyanka, the former KGB headquarters,



A furious mother confronts a Russian militiaman

was formed five years ago in response to the appalling conditions for conscripts in the army. Bullying and beatings have become routine, fatal accidents are common and the majority of Russian teenage boys try to evade the draft.

Today the office has become a place of pilgrimage for anxious parents from across Russia hoping to find out what has become of their children. "The authorities will not tell me anything because they say my boy is in a special unit," said one distraught parent

from the northern city of Murmansk. "In his last letter he said they were preparing to send him to Grozny. I know for a fact he has only had three weeks' training. If he goes in there he will be butchered."

Tamara Shakhonova travelled two days by train to Moscow to receive news of her 19-year-old son, who is serving as a private with the Interior Ministry troops. "There are 16 of us heading down to Chechnya tomorrow," she said. "If I see him, I will try to bring him home. I don't want

him killed for a stupid war." Her sentiments are quickly echoed by other fearful parents who, like the rest of the country, have been stunned by the daily television broadcasts showing the devastation of Grozny, the heavy loss of life and the grim existence of Russian troops living under canvas in the freezing winter.

Sensitive to accusations that it has mistreated the young conscripts, the army first responded by threatening to prosecute the missing soldiers and their parents on charges of desertion, which carry lengthy prison terms and even the death penalty.

However, when intimidation did not work, the army was forced for the first time in its history to defend itself in public. This week, for instance, Colonel-General Vladimir Churavov told reporters, at a well-rehearsed press conference in Moscow, that contrary to reports troops in the field were properly fed and well treated. He even put on an elaborate show when young soldiers in freshly issued uniforms extolled the virtues of their equipment, the warmth of their clothing and the tastiness of their rations. The display, however, was probably too late to placate the nation's fearful army of mothers, who seem determined to make sure that those responsible are made to pay.

This month the Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, is due to consider a no-confidence motion against General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, who is blamed for bungling the unpopular war. Not surprisingly, perhaps, the motion against him was proposed by the Women of Russia party.

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Matthew Parris



■ Our jury system has a distinctive capacity to make decisions that are wrong in law but right in common sense

Unlike judges, a British jury can ignore the facts, overlook statute and brush precedent aside. The distinctive contribution of our jury system is its capacity not to apply the law but to make decisions that are wrong in law—but right in common sense or common sentiment. They act both as a remedy for hard cases, and an early warning for laws that have gone adrift of the spirit of the age.

As a result of the impact of Private Lee Clegg's life sentence, and the speed with which MPs have become instant experts on when a soldier may or may not open fire. Within a week, terms such as "yellow card" are bandied about as though we had all grown up with the lingo. One MP has tried to secure an emergency debate, another has raised the affair during Prime Minister's Questions, and many have signed an early day motion supporting Clegg. As I write, scores will be opining on the matter at social functions in their constituencies. In this, MPs (like newspaper editors) are acting as substitutes for the jury which, in Clegg's case, never sat.

When the law is an ass, jurors have the chance to say so

Imagine yourself a backbench MP. For you, this is one of those happy occasions that permits the rapid incubation of a passionate opinion on an issue of principle whose elements seem easy to grasp, and whose facts can be expressed plainly. Throw in a few terms of art, a two-page course in Teach Yourself Martial Law and a conversation with someone who was once a soldier, and you are ready to face the worst of the Little Snidding Conservative Branch's winter warmer muddled wine 'n' ginger snaps evening reception (kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Lionel Grunt, and Lady Grunt) can throw at you. You will defer, of course, to the Grunt view, from which you will have already ensured that your own does not substantially differ.

Probably the last time you had such reliable fun was just before Christmas, when retired miner Ted Newbery was sued successfully for damages after he had shot a thief prowling outside his garden allotment shed in Ilkington, Derbyshire. The thief was awarded £4,000. The nation was outraged. There was no jury.

It is not hard to guess our imagined backbencher's view on the Newbery case or the Clegg affair. And a third rail has reached its conclusion this past week: again, Little Snidding can be fairly confident of the tenor of its MP's advice. At Sheffield Crown Court "old soldier" Ben Lyon, 73, has been acquitted of attempted murder or unlawful wounding after he had shot in the face someone he suspected of stealing old railway lines, near his allotment. Mr

his career is rooted, or embrace the argument which raises a cheer in Ilkington High Street. No judge should be asked to, I, too, have no brief for old or young soldiers with guns. They will be judged by their maker. But between the first judgment and the last lies Ilkington, Sheffield, Little Snidding and the readers of *The Sun*, and I think we need to keep them on board. Only a British jury can be relied upon for the necessary, vulgar indifference to the facts.

Nor should liberals assume the results will only be reactionary. The offence of homosexual importuning is becoming harder to prosecute because juries have stopped assuming that the "purpose" (as the Section puts it) for which someone might smile twice at someone else is necessarily "immoral". The law intended juries to assume the immorality of any homosexual purpose, but modern juries won't. They are giving a signal, thereby, to lawmakers.

But when the law's an ass, a British jury is offered a licensed and polite opportunity to say so. Jurors may assert — what those, however distinguished, within a legal discipline might be ashamed to boast — that the law is sometimes best ignored. The finest and most important achievements of our jury system occur when it insists on a conclusion that is probably wrong in law.

One of the great foreign correspondents died last week. A former Editor comes to praise him

The happy legacy of Louis Heren

The Times is 210 years old this year. Throughout its history, the paper has been able to attract and retain the loyalty of some great journalists, many of them for the whole of their professional lives. Louis Heren, who died last Thursday, was the outstanding example of such a Times journalist in his period on the staff, which lasted for nearly 50 years, from 1933 to 1981. He was certainly the leading foreign and war correspondent of the period from 1950 to 1970, a man of equal courage in covering war zones, including Korea and the Malayan emergency, or confronting governments. He angered Chancellor Aneurin Bevan and General Templer about equally. In the 1970s, he was an absolutely staunch deputy editor through the difficult period of the long stoppage and the sale of the paper by the Thomson family.

When I became Editor in 1967, Louis was already established as the Washington correspondent. He was only nine years older than I was, but had joined *The Times* as a messenger when he was 14, so he had already been connected with *The Times* for well over 30 years. Washington in the Lyndon Johnson years was probably the happiest time of his whole career. His wife, to whom he was devoted, had not yet fallen ill; he enjoyed being a foreign correspondent more than he did the office work that falls to a deputy editor. He liked the independence he enjoyed in Washington, was fascinated by the operation of American power, then at its height, and always delighted in the company of Americans.

Louis Heren had exceptional access to the Lyndon Johnson White House. The President was extremely suspicious of the journalists whom he thought had been too close to the Kennedys, whom he classed collectively as "Georgetown intellectuals". Most of the other leading British

correspondents had been close to the Anglophile Kennedy team, particularly Henry Brandon. Louis Heren's opposite number on *The Sunday Times* and a family friend of the Kennedys who had played tennis with John F. Kennedy when he was still a young senator. Louis did not live in Georgetown and he did not see himself as an intellectual. Johnson regarded him as a connection to the press who was free of the Kennedy taint. There was also a robustness about the two men's characters that made them sympathetic to each other.

Louis Heren was very proud of his origins, although he was sometimes suspicious that other people might look down on them. He had Germanic blood, Basque blood and cockney blood. He had been brought up poor, but not very poor. His father, who died when he was young, had been in printing. His mother ran a small café, which always made some money when other people in the East End were unemployed. He could show the fierceness of the self-educated, like Ernest Bevin. He prided himself on the directness of his approach.

This created a certain initial wariness in his approach to me. He had felt great loyalty to the Astor proprietorship, but had come to feel that a new proprietor was necessary, and welcomed the Thomson purchase in 1966, as he was to welcome the Murdoch purchase in 1981. He was a

realist about newspapers. He gave me his loyalty as the new Editor, but was somewhat uneasy that I might prove a Balliol intellectual. He saw me as a leader writer, and therefore a journalist of opinion — not as good as an honest reporter. He feared that a Somerset landowner might prove to be as susceptible to the Establishment as Geoffrey Dawson — a Yorkshire landowner — had been at the time of Munich.

There was also a difference of temperament. I grew up in Somerset

set to stay with us. He had always seen that Gillingham, my wife, was a realist, as he was — and that had partly reassured him.

It was, however, his meeting with my mother, and his appreciation that she was an American of the type he admired most, that sealed our relationship. I am not quite sure what parts of our ancestry thereafter spoke to each other, perhaps his Basque to my Irish American, but we worked well together for more than ten years.

I greatly admired Louis and would have liked him to become Editor, which was his great ambition. I never thought it likely to happen, if only because he was nearly ten years older than I was, and it seemed probable that my eventual successor would be younger than I was — in fact Harold Evans was my age, but he was soon succeeded by Charles Douglas-Home, who belonged to the next generation of Times journalists.

When *The Times* was sold in 1981, I told Rupert Murdoch that I did not wish to go on. In fact, I thought that a new proprietor ought to have a new Editor, while from my own point of view I felt that 14 years had been more than long enough. There were three probable candidates for the succession — Evans, who was then Editor of *The Sunday Times*, Louis Heren and Charles Douglas-Home, who was in effect the number three on *The Times*. Like Louis, Charles had experience as a war correspondent; he, too, had played

an active and firm role in the great stoppage.

I consulted the senior editors, and found, not to my surprise, that most of them felt Louis was at that point too old — he was already over 60. A small majority wanted Charles Douglas-Home, who did, indeed, become Editor within a year. His early death was a great loss to *The Times*. Evans, who was only narrowly second, was, in fact, chosen. I was in favour of the appointment of Charles; events proved that was the right choice for *The Times*.

Louis was deeply disappointed, and felt grief at the loss. It would have been a wonderful life story, from messenger boy to Editor. He would have been a good Editor; he was a great correspondent, a good writer, and a strong and honest man. But he was more of a working journalist by nature than an Editor, always happiest when following a story. The editorship would have come to him at the wrong time; up to a point he recognised that — he felt the pain of missing the opportunity very acutely, but without bitterness. He knew that I had not supported his claim, but accepted that it was reasonable to recommend a younger man.

Louis Heren had most of the journalist's essential skills, including the power of narrative, which is so rare. He had not read Dickens in vain. His books are very good — much better than most journalists' books. He was a wholly loyal Times man. He was a good friend. But the most important memory is his courage, both the immediate courage of his work as a war correspondent, and the deeper longer-term courage of his life as a tough-minded seeker for truth. So long as *The Times* can command the loyalty of such journalists, it will have a future worthy of the paper's long history.

William Rees-Mogg

with an almost Japanese desire to save other people's face.

As Editor, I seldom turned down my colleagues' suggestions in a direct way. If I said: "That is a very interesting idea, but I see some problems," that meant "No". Louis' directness and my indirectness seldom clashed on the merit of a decision, but I remember him leaving my office and asking my secretary: "Did William's 'Yes' mean 'Yes', or did it mean 'No'?"

After he came back in 1970 to be the deputy editor in charge of foreign coverage, Louis came down to Som-

A clash of party and country

John Major is playing a risky tactical game with Europe, says Peter Riddell

John Major believes that a shift in a Euro-sceptic direction is necessary to keep his party together before the next election. But that is incompatible with his claim of four years ago that Britain should be "at the heart of Europe". Britain could yet again be on the outside, on the defensive over the future of Europe.

Last Thursday's Cabinet discussion was symbolic. The sceptics did not stage a coup, nor was there a great split between them and the pro-Europeans. That is what was so significant. Opinion in the Tory party has been moving in a sceptical direction for the past 18 months. A shift has repeatedly been signalled by John Major, while Douglas Hurd has stressed his opposition to major constitutional changes at next year's inter-governmental conference.

What happened on Thursday was that a wide range of ministers argued that a preliminary paper from the Foreign Secretary did not go far enough and they urged further proposals to limit the power of European Union institutions.

The real story is not about the familiar views of the five confirmed Euro-sceptics, but rather the change in position of many of the previously committed pro-Europeans. Their rationalisation, and that of Mr Major, is that the Maastricht battles marked a turning point, the high tide of federalism and centralism.

Political leaders in Europe did have a fright as a result of the close vote in France, the Danish referendum, the prolonged parliamentary battles in Britain and the ruling of the German constitutional court. As Jacques Delors recognised in not standing for the French presidency,



John Major and Douglas Hurd: shifts in attitude towards Brussels have been signalled

there is little immediate chance of building a European federal state. Other governments are now talking about subsidiarity and are aware of the need to change the EU to take account of enlargement.

But there is still a big gulf between the views of Mr Major and most other European leaders. This is illustrated not only by the renewed commitment to early monetary union made by Jacques Santer, the new Commission President, on Saturday, but also by the comments of French and German leaders. They have not suddenly become sceptics. For all the perennial Foreign Office claims about winning allies in the rest of Europe, or of splitting France and Germany, there are no signs of a cross-European sceptical alliance, or of a London-Paris axis against Bonn. They remain committed to a

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

"social Europe" and few would bet against Germany and France moving towards a single currency within a few years.

That presents the Cabinet pro-Europeans with an acute dilemma. Many are indulging in wishful thinking, claiming a larger shift in views elsewhere in Europe than has really occurred. Some, such as Michael Heseltine, claim that there has been no real change in the British approach of a vigorous assertion of national interests within the EU. But that involves a rewriting of what was said at the time of Margaret Thatcher's downfall in 1990. The Heseltine campaign was, in large part, strongly pro-European against what was presented as her harmful negative

approach. The arrival of Mr Major was supposed to mark a change.

Other pro-Europeans, such as Kenneth Clarke, argue that closer integration between Britain and the rest of Europe has not been ruled out. Mr Clarke, who will be making a big speech on the subject in ten days' time, still favours eventual European monetary union, while his economic policies are consistent with that goal. But the sceptics want to close this option, and Mr Major has recently hardened his opposition to British involvement in any single currency formed in 1997.

Whatever the rationalisations, government policy has moved in a sceptical direction. This is partly a matter of emphasis: the balance between national and Community powers. The Cabinet majority has not been converted to the sceptics' belief

in a free-trade area. But since Mr Major has shifted, the rest have gone along. They know which way opinion is going in the Conservative Party, and they are not going to buck the trend if they want to advance their careers. They do not believe that there is much support in the party for a strongly pro-European position. The biggest threat to unity comes from the sceptics rather than from the pro-Europeans, although recent stories about a tilt in the sceptical direction did yesterday produce warnings about the dangers of British isolation in Europe, not just from Sir Edward Heath, but also from leading backbenchers such as Sir Peter Hordern and Tim Renton.

With the exception of Mr Clarke and John Gummer, the pro-Europeans in the Cabinet have been ineffective, always promising to make speeches that they seldom deliver. Until recently, pro-Europeans in the City and industry have been largely invisible, temperamentally averse to rocking the boat.

Some Cabinet pro-Europeans privately accept that Britain could be on a separate track from an inner core of countries led by France and Germany. They acknowledge that Britain will lose influence but that it will just have to make the best of being in the outer group. In political terms, Mr Major thinks the Tories can differentiate themselves from federalist Labour and Liberal Democrats. Tony Blair calculates that Labour will not suffer in the long term from being seen to be positive, rather than negative, about Europe.

Mr Major is a shrewd political tactician. He is constrained by sharp internal party divisions. A true, let alone unity, will be hard to achieve. No wonder he wants to avoid a referendum on Europe for as long as possible for fear of reopening these wounds. Some of his shift is admittedly more in rhetoric than substance. But the risk is that by not putting the positive case for British participation in the EU, the Government will forfeit influence over the central decisions. The unity of the Tory party and Britain's national interests are again in conflict.

Royal approval

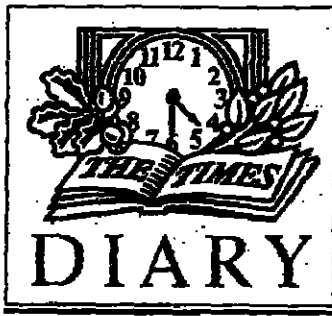
IT HAS been a difficult weekend for John Kennedy, Prince Michael of Kent's private secretary, at the centre of a blackmail investigation involving an exiled Libyan prince. There is little sign, however, that Kennedy has lost favour in royal circles — indeed, there is talk that he could soon marry into them.

The former Conservative Party researcher has been dating Princess Lavinia of Yugoslavia, a friendly soul whom he has known for many years. The couple are pictured in next month's *Tatler*

supping champagne — friends believe they are all but engaged. Their marriage would firmly cement Kennedy's royal connections because Princess Lavinia is directly related to his boss, Prince Michael. Her mother is his first cousin. The princess is also stepsister to the late Prince Christopher of Yugoslavia, who was killed last summer while on the island of Islay where he was working as a primary school teacher. Prince Christopher was the Duke of Edinburgh's godson and great nephew.

Kennedy, who will be back at Kensington Palace today, refused to comment yesterday on his relationship with Princess Lavinia, but one friend of the couple said: "He has escorted her to Ascot and all sorts of places. They have been very close for at least two or three years."

● Jon Sopel's biography of Tony Blair, entitled *The Moderniser*, suggests that it is not just wife Cherie who has had an image makeover. The hall of their north London home has been "lavishly redone with wallpaper that gives



the impression of a house made of stone columns. And the threadbare carpets have been replaced by trendy hessian matting."

Held in trust

VIVienne Westwood, the fashion designer who went to a Kensington Palace dinner wearing a see-through dress and no underwear, seems to have been welcomed back into royal circles.

The Prince of Wales's Scottish Business Trust holds up Westwood as a role model for the entrepreneurs it supports. "Be the next Vivienne Westwood. Be outrageous. Be flamboyant," screams the headline in the trust's latest advertisement. Westwood was, of course, responsible for the design of a Sex Pistols T-shirt that fea-

nured Her Majesty sporting a safety pin through her nose.

● Notice placed in the local parish magazine by a vicar in Transvaal: "I shall be away for the next few Sundays. During my absence the preachers will be found pinned on the church notice board. All marriages, births and deaths must be postponed until I return."

Dogged life

WHEN he's not having his ear bent about veal, William Waldegrave is getting grief from dog-

owners. At a dinner last week in London, Raymond Seitz, the former American Ambassador to the Court of St James's and owner of three dogs, told him the quarantine laws were too strict.

Seitz explained that, because of his different postings, his dogs had been in quarantine three times and he thought six months' isolation too long. Waldegrave was unbending, but his wife did offer some solace. "Don't worry," she said. "It will all be over in two years — that's when Chris Patten will be back from Hong Kong and he's unlikely to endure putting his two dogs, Whisky and Soda, through the process."

Busby's return

THE LATE Sir Matt Busby is to return to Manchester United. The club that banned Eric Cantona after his kick-boxing lunge at a spectator has commissioned a bronze statue of the legendary team manager. It will go on display at Old Trafford, the United ground, by the end of the year.

Since he never met Busby, nor had any contact with United until last November, the sculptor Philip Jackson has relied on archive material: "He's such a folk hero up in Manchester. He's larger than life." The sculpture will reflect this — it



Doing as Simon says: spoofer Sir Norman Fowler

will be one-and-a-half times life-size and will weigh two tons. This should help Jackson to prepare for his next commission: a bronze of Luciano Pavarotti.

Crying Fowler

TWO PILLARS of the Conservative Party have decided to share their thoughts on Central Office. Sir Norman Fowler, the former chairman, is captured on a video spoof, lightheartedly hailing the resignations of David Mellor, Norman Lamont and Tim Yeo as the "great ER triumphs" of his time in office. Jeremy Hanley talks longingly of

Claudia Schiffer. Fowler and Hanley then proceed to jump around to the tune "Simon Says". The video was shown at a party last week to mark the departure of Simon Brooke, the Tories' broadcasting officer, to become a male model.

Hanley's contribution is most extraordinary. "If Simon gets me tickets to see Claudia Schiffer, I could just about live with it," he says. "He's a very lucky man. He is out of here [Central Office]. He is with those beautiful ladies for the rest of his life. Simon, help... help..."



John Kennedy and the princess



HOW TO DECENTRALISE

Local government is not always best

The Government is set for a rough ride in the Commons on Wednesday over its planned spending levels for local authorities in the next financial year. The proposed grant from Whitehall to town halls — the "Aggregate External Finance", which does not include council tax revenues — is up by only 1.2 per cent to £34.7 billion. Many are already describing this settlement as the toughest in 20 years.

The budgeted settlement is undoubtedly tough. Yet the implication that, in setting such limits, the Government is interfering unreasonably in local democracy reflects a serious misassumption about the structure of government in this country. It has become a political commonplace to claim that power has been arbitrarily centralised in the last 15 years and that the rights of local government have been wantonly eroded. This allegation depends for most of its force on the premise that local governance was effectively decentralised before 1979. But this is not so.

For centuries, Britain has been more of a unitary state than a federation of autonomous districts. Where local authority has established itself, it has done so with the express permission of central government. Between the Elizabethan Poor Law Acts and the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, Parliament carved out quite specific and limited tasks for local governors. The latter law made clear the *ultra vires* principle that local government existed only to put into practice principles set out in statute. In 1871, the Royal Sanitary Commission described British local government as "local administration under central superintendence".

In the course of this century, the burden of central subsidy has been added to the task of central superintendence. Most local spending is now paid for by the taxpayer — a key feature of our democracy which is too often forgotten. This accounts in large part for the efforts in the last 15 years to control local

spending, ranging from the rate-cap to the poll tax and compulsory competitive tendering of local services. About 80 per cent of local spending in 1995-6 will be distributed from the centre. In practice, the annual vote in the Commons approving the central grant is the key event in the town hall calendar.

Those who support devolution must recognise what they are up against. The centralisation of power in the British state is historic and structural rather than recent and party political. One way to address this problem would be to reduce drastically the central grant to local government and give local taxpayers much greater freedom to pay money as they saw fit. Many of Newt Gingrich's supporters in America are proposing a similar shift of responsibility from federal government to individual states. Yet such plans would be much easier to implement under the American constitution than they are to envisage under the British one. The unhappy history of the poll tax suggests how vigorous the opposition would be in this country to such a fundamental change.

As Daniel Finkelstein argues today on our Agenda page, there are ways of making local services more accountable and responsive to consumers other than through the ballot box. Parental choice in education is one; the purchaser-provider split in healthcare is another; so is contracting out of services; so is the Citizen's Charter. The unqualified claim that Britain is being taken over by an unelected "quangocracy" reflects lazy thinking: it fails to acknowledge the enormous differences between the various agencies which have been set up in the last 15 years to reform local governance. This is not to say that all are working satisfactorily. But it is time to acknowledge that true decentralisation is not something that lies in the past; on the contrary, it is a goal to which politicians are only now beginning to aspire.

MEXICAN WAVES

A key congressional vote for America's neighbour

The chances that the United States Congress will approve the Administration's proposal for a \$40 billion loan guarantee for Mexico are fading by the day. A date for the vote has repeatedly been delayed. The resurgent Republican Congress is beginning to question the terms of the deal. The pro-union wing of the Democratic Party, unreconciled to the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), is making common cause with neo-isolationist Republican congressmen, who have little sympathy for the prickly neighbour south of the border. Republican newcomers especially, in their zeal for budget cuts, refuse to distinguish between a loan and a government handout. A diminished President Clinton has barely denied public opinion with his unconvincing support for the deal.

A failure to pass the package would have catastrophic consequences — for Mexico, for Nafta, for the Clinton Administration and, within a fairly short time, for American business. The Administration has done its best to give warning of the likely effect. Mexico has recently overtaken Japan to become the second largest US export market after Canada. A collapse of its economy would have a direct impact on scores of American companies that have taken advantage of Nafta to set up manufacturing and retailing outlets there. The loss of confidence could spread to other emerging markets. It would certainly lead to a surge in illegal immigration.

Mr Clinton's lobbying has met indifference. The more his officials argue that the loan is in America's own interest, is guaranteed by Mexico's oil exports and is vital for the political reforms and economic liberalisation Washington wants to encourage, the more they irk the Congress. House Speaker Newt Gingrich still remains committed to a rescue plan; but he and a

growing number of senators want to attach strings. They want tighter Mexican curbs on drug smuggling and illegal immigration; they want a renegotiation of elements of Nafta seen harming American labour markets; and they are pushing for the sale of the state-owned Pemex oil company to allow American companies a stake.

Such conditions have provoked a visceral anti-American reaction in Mexico. The old guard of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party is already unhappy at the slight to Mexican pride in having to go cap in hand to Washington. Its members feel threatened by the proposed political reforms of President Zedillo which ought, after 66 years of institutional autocracy, to open up politics to democratisation, transparency and cleaner dealing. They are waiting to sabotage the reforms, hoping to enlist the disgruntled middle classes who have seen their new wealth disappear overnight, who can no longer afford American luxuries and who blame the new President for an inept handling of the peso's devaluation.

President Zedillo is in an impossible situation. He must keep interest rates extremely high to keep foreign investment; but the longer he does so, the more small businesses he ruins. He cannot make concessions to the Americans on immigration or Nafta without sabotaging his own political base — in a year when he has five difficult provincial elections to fight. He has one possible way out: he could, quixotically, mitigate the damage from a congressional rebuff by himself turning down the proffered loan. The threat might increase his leverage on Capitol Hill — at the risk of a further massive devaluation and domestic turmoil. In the end, Congress may see the wider picture and pass the necessary legislation. But it will be a close-run thing.

ACADEMICALLY INCORRECT

Scholarly works should not be tailored to political fads

History has always been the most vulnerable discipline, abused by nations to justify wars and condone aggression. Totalitarian societies have traditionally rewritten the past to obliterate the presumed dissent of those whose example could rally opposition. Democratic societies have a better record of protecting impartial analysis and learning from past errors and crimes. Only an ideology as malign as Communism or Nazism demands the falsification of history. Western societies have assumed. They are wrong. Intolerance is ever waiting to ambush the past — even at Oxford, as the case of Professor John Vincent illustrates so alarmingly.

Professor Vincent is a distinguished historian at Bristol University. He is also a leading thinker on the political right, who in 1986 was forced to take a year's absence from his teaching after left-wing demonstrators disrupted his lectures. In 1992 he was commissioned to write a survey on the development of history as a discipline. But after an apparent tiff over early drafts of the text with the publishers, Oxford University Press, the project was suddenly dropped. Mr Vincent's crime, it seems, was that he would not rewrite history to conform to the ideology of the times. His book was not written in the "inclusive" language that is gender neutral; he had not taken into account the modern principles that feminist historians have brought to the subject; and

he had failed to appreciate the importance of social history — an interpretation dear to all Marxist hearts. In short, he was a right-wing chauvinist, insensitive to the new politically correct culture.

If this case had blown up at a liberal arts college in California three years ago, British academics would have given a bemused shrug. Oxford, it has been assumed, is impregnable to the assaults of fad and fable. Yet political correctness is a force all the more insidious because it pretends to liberalism and tolerance: the greater inclusion of women, the acknowledgement of the worth and achievement of minorities and other races, the refusal to condemn.

Last year there were attempts to turn the D-Day commemorations into some Euro-friendly festival of reconciliation. Last week the Smithsonian Institution in Washington was finally rebuffed in its proposal to mount an exhibition of the bombing of Hiroshima which portrayed the Japanese as the war's victims and the Americans as ruthless aggressors — even quartering the estimate of American casualties in an invasion of Japan to make the bombing appear all the more gratuitous. All such revisionism is pernicious. But extension to historiography widens the boundaries of the new intolerance. OUP, and its university governing body, must not conspire in this new vandalism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Advice to Lord Chief Justice on speeding courts' work

From Mr Christopher Frazer

Sir, Everyone shares the admirable mission of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, to reduce costs and delay in the courts (report, January 25). But one aspect of his reforms — that more statements and submissions are committed to paper — will simply make matters worse.

The last decade has seen a growing insistence that witness statements stand as evidence-in-chief. The consequence is that highly paid lawyers spend incomparably more hours on the preparation of elegantly phrased statements than they formerly devoted to proofs of evidence for counsel's use as a basis for examination-in-chief.

Clients pay more, delays get longer; and the ascertainment of truth becomes harder, because the judge no longer observes a witness telling his own story in his own words.

English civil procedure needs a bonfire of this paper mountain if speedy, inexpensive justice is to be achieved.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER FRAZER
(Chairman, Editorial Board,
Chambers Magazine),
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4A
January 25.

From Professor Karl Mackie

Sir, In all the newspaper commentary on the Lord Chief Justice's direction to lawyers to "cut out the waffle", a more important culture change has gone unnoticed. The new direction requires lawyers to consult clients and the other party on whether the action can

be resolved by alternative dispute resolution before trial.

It thus commits lawyers and their clients to active review of mediation and other alternatives to battling through the courts, raising the prospect, in time, of costs awards against parties for procrastination and deliberate intransigence, and of negligence actions against lawyers who do not advise effectively on mediation.

This is a significant shift in the legal system and a welcome counter-weight to the traditional adversarial training of lawyers. A well conducted mediation is the best recipe I know for streamlining legal warfare.

Yours faithfully,
KARL MACKIE
(Chief Executive, CEDR
(Centre for Dispute Resolution),
100 Fener Lane, EC4A
January 26.

From Mr Graham Pressler

Sir, The present length of legal submissions might be curbed if judges were a little less indulgent. What must not happen is for a level of intolerance to be reached where judges refuse to hear submissions purely because the stopwatch has run out of time.

Time-efficient judges who have read the witness statements in advance and only seek to clarify points or deal with cross-examination are not unknown. But witnesses as to fact are often the turning point in a trial, and some are less than truthful. There is no better way of forming a view as to the accuracy of the evidence than actually hearing it.

One of the main reasons for delays in justice is that we simply do not have

enough judges, and over-listing will in part be alleviated by the new proposals; but listing officers have for too long been trying to get a quart into a pint pot. Hopefully those responsible for the financing of the justice system will eventually realise that the cost of cancelled trials is far more than the salary of a judge.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM PRESSLER
Graham Pressler & Co (solicitors),
74 Wrayby Street,
Brigg, South Humberside,
January 25.

From Dr Peter Gray

Sir, In Law Times today Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC, the newly appointed chairman of the Bar Council, is aptly described by one of his colleagues at the commercial Bar as "superb, absolutely tenacious — the sort who fights every corner for his client".

In the same issue of your newspaper you report a survey by a City law firm which concludes that big firms wish to cut the cost and delay of civil justice by curbing barristers' speeches and limiting the length of trials.

Does this not illustrate our ambivalent attitude towards our adversarial legal system? Clients want their lawyers to leave no stone unturned in the fight for justice, but do not want to accept the practical consequences.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GRAY (barrister),
Stour Chambers, Barton Mill House,
Barton Mill Road, Canterbury, Kent,
January 24.

Chatham House freedom of debate

From Professor Sir Laurence Martin,
Director, The Royal Institute of
International Affairs

Sir, It would be wholly contrary to the duties and traditions of Chatham House if I entered into partisan debate in response to Denis MacShane's polemical column of January 20, headed "A Fascist for Chatham House?". For the same reason it is not for me to comment on Signor Gianfranco Fini, general secretary of the MSI party in Italy.

Mr MacShane's remarks, however, so misrepresent the role of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, and so totally obscure the context in which Signor Fini was invited to speak here, that I feel obliged to offer some clarification.

Chatham House receives less than one third of its money from business and is not "funded by the Government", as Mr MacShane alleges. Unlike most of its European counterparts it receives no grant-in-aid at all and certainly has no relationship that would have enabled Mr Hurd to "nudge" us on this or any other matter.

Indeed when, last September, we wished to hear another controversial figure, Mr Anwar Haddad, President of the Algerian Islamic Front for Salvation's parliamentary delegation to Europe and the USA, we were frustrated by his being unable to obtain a visa.

East is east . . .

From Mr David J. White

Sir, Sir George Eggle's childhood image of Kipling's "Road to Mandalay" seems to have become a disappointment to him ("Poet kept his rhyme but lost his reason on the road to Mandalay", January 21).

As a young man, privileged to be serving in the Royal Navy, I was lucky enough to travel along my own childhood image of "the road" and to have it confirmed in a way that has provided me with a well of delight ever since.

In 1947, in one of HM cruisers out of Devonport, we tracked east along the sea length of the "road". Prepared as I was by Kipling, I was not surprised on the last stage of the journey from Trincomalee to see the flying fishes

play — only surprised occasionally that one should play so energetically and with such lack of regard for what, in every manual of seamanship, is called the rule of the road, as to land in my lap via the wind-scoop.

Nor was I surprised by the magnificent sunrises, which really did come up, every dawn, like "thunder out of Burma. China and everywhere else east across the Bay of Bengal towards us."

Burma has an east-facing coast of some 250 miles. So where the difficulty in imagining a pagoda named Moulmein on that coast? One does not look for Oxford Circus in Oxford.

Yours etc,
DAVID J. WHITE,
13 Ridley Close, Cropston,
Leicestershire,
January 22.

What might have been

From Lord Harris of High Cross

Sir, Martin Ivens's most amiable assessment of the Institute of Economic Affairs ("Lord of the Markets", January 23) prompts the question: what might have happened if we had been founded in 1884 in place of the Fabian Society?

Instead of the misdirection of all political parties by the Webbs, H. G. Wells, Shaw and other clumsy prophets of big government, our infant democracy would have been more modestly shaped by Adam Smith, Acton, de Tocqueville, A. V. Dicey.

Self-help would not have been crowded out by failing universal state welfare and half our incomes would not now be pre-empted by taxation. The State would not need rolling back because it would never have rolled so far forward.

The only trouble is that I would now be about 140 instead of "a spy 70". (Incidentally, whatever became of the fading Fabian Society?)

Yours etc,
RALPH HARRIS
(A founder president,
Institute of Economic Affairs,
2 Lord North Street, SW1,
January 23.

Regional trends

From Mrs Stephen Galpin

Sir, How delightful it is that many journalists, especially in radio and television, think so highly of the Scottish education system that they refrain from giving us free geography lessons. English audiences are instructed almost daily about, for example, "the Rosyth Dockyard in Scotland" or "an avalanche in Wester Ross in Scotland".

However, journalists do not deem it necessary to patronise the Scots by describing "animal rights protesters at Shoreham in England" or "a spokesman at a Truro hospital in England".

Do the Welsh escape because anything unpronounceable is assumed to be in their domain?

Yours faithfully,
CAROLE GALPIN,
Crichon House, Pathhead,
Midlothian (Scotland),
January 23.

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for publication should carry a
daytime telephone number. They
may be sent by fax to—
0171-782 5046.

Relevance today of Clause Four

From Mr Ken Coates, MEP for
Northamptonshire North and
Cheshire (Socialist Group
(Labour))

Sir, I was grateful to Bernard Levin for expressing his joy at the news that I am not yet dead ("Still harking on a lost cause", January 17). I would like to reciprocate, and assure him that I hope to be reading his columns for many a day to come.

It is extremely pleasing to know that Bernard will be voting Labour; but I fear that he has not quite understood the reason why passions on Clause Four run so high in the Labour Party.

The last time that Clause Four was in jeopardy, in 1959-60, its opponents could, with reason, point to the sustained achievement of full employment, and the virtues of a seller's market for labour. Had such conditions endured, possibly socialism might have perished.

But Bernard has not noticed that they did not endure. We now have mass misery, on a scale which I had never imagined. Millions of people subsist on the most miserable benefits, or in the corners of the black economy. In my constituency, there are villages which are totally isolated from the modern economy, in which the men have been unable to work for a decade or more. Those who can find work find wages which have been reduced below any decent level.

I have tried hard to support the Delors project, launched in 1993, for a European Keynes-plus effort to end unemployment by halting before the end of the century. But the Council of Ministers, aided by our own Government, has withheld the authorisation for the raising of the necessary funds, so that rather than cutting European unemployment by half, we are at present set on course for doubling it.

Clause Four speaks of "the most equitable distribution" to workers by hand or by brain of the full fruit of their industry "that may be possible upon the basis of [my italics] the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange". Its implementation would not only encourage the resolution of such modern problems as the robbery of pension funds; it could also stimulate local enterprises and the expansion of public services, thereby creating jobs. Tackling environmental problems, such as improving fuel use, would also certainly create jobs, but nations lack the political will to deal with this issue as a top priority.

I wish I could persuade Bernard Levin to join me in my constituency, if only for a day, to investigate how life is lived in the land of the excluded, which occupies so much of Britain's space. I suspect that we might wind up agreeing about something.

Yours sincerely,
KEN COATES,
112 Church Street,
Matlock, Derbyshire,
January 22.

Film industry

From Mrs Ann Neale

Sir, I was delighted to read (report, January 20) Lord Attenborough's strong words on the failure of the Establishment towards the British film industry.

The seat of a nation's culture lies in its art forms, which include music, dance and, in these days, films — on television and in the cinema. Through a country's film we learn about how its people think and feel. With so little film output from this country, there is a yawning gap for the rest of the world about our culture and way of life.

We have the actors, directors, designers and playwrights — including the greatest — and we have the people waiting to work. A thriving film industry could play a vital part in the revival of this country, artistically, industrially and financially. It is where much of our talent lies, and it is time the Government awoke to the opportunity it is missing.

Films provide entertainment which can influence and educate. They could be vital ambassadors for Britain.

Yours sincerely,
ANN NEALE,
Runnings Park, Croft Bank,
West Malvern, Worcestershire,
January 20.

Written in the stars?

From Mrs Wendy Mayo

Sir, It's all very well being born under the sign of Ophiuchus [letters, January 24, 25], but how do I pronounce it?

Yours faithfully,
WENDY MAYO,
17 Botley Road, Romsey, Hampshire,
January 24.

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, Astrology proves one scientific fact: there's one born every minute.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST,
Delfryn, Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire,
January 24.

From Mr Gerry Lynas

Sir, We Leos do not believe in astrology.

Yours faithfully,
GERRY LYNAS,
15 Gurst Road,
Upton, Poole, Dorset,
January 25.

A clear but uphill road to prosperity

Sally Nash reports on a gradual growth of confidence in the truck market in the wake of recession

Truck registrations in 1994 rose an astonishing 23 per cent over the figures for 1993, the highest year-on-year increase on record and a stark contrast to the ailing car market.

Ernie Thompson, the chief executive at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, says: "Clearly demand for new commercial vehicles will continue and is indicative of growing business confidence."

But the Freight Transport Association, which represents 12,000 companies running vehicles, says the increase in vehicle sales is unlikely to be sustained in 1995.

The FTA's latest freight monitor survey suggests that only 25 per cent of its members expect to increase fleet sizes of vehicles over 3.5 tonnes, compared to 29 per cent in 1994.

Leyland Daf, which sold 8,208 trucks over 3.5 tonnes in 1994, believes a lot of the growth has come from the construction sector, although the overall size of this market is still below historical levels.

Leyland Daf's managing director, David Gill, says: "In almost every other sector there were strong performances, too. Only in the tiny 7.5-12 tonne sector (accounting for less than 3 per cent of total sales) did sales fall compared with 1993."

A lot of transport companies are having to take on both new and replacement vehicles because they have delayed vehicle purchases throughout the recession.

NFC, Britain's largest transport company, says that although business volumes are picking up, the distribution industry is going to be very competitive for some time. Martyn Pellew, business development director for NFC

subsidiary Exel/BRS, says: "There is a lot of activity but that does not mean prices are improving." The level of business inquiries is still high but they are not necessarily being translated into contract wins, he says.

In December, the group announced "disappointing" full-year results. NFC blamed a mixture of pressure on margins and difficult trading conditions for a sluggish pre-

would have to be in niche market sectors, says Mr Littmoden.

Fullers Logistics Group is one company contributing to the vehicle manufacturers' coffers, as it expects to place orders for new equipment this year worth about £1 million. However, it does not believe that demand for increased truck sales can be sustained.

The managing director, Tony Dowley, says that new

million in new and replacement vehicles over the course of this year. The vehicles, which include tractor units, trailers, rigid and drawer demountable units, will be taken on because of a recent surge in new contracts. They will be for use on current, recently awarded and forthcoming contracts in all three areas of the company's business — dedicated, shared-user and primary distribution.

Wincanton Distribution is also optimistic. "In 1994-95 Wincanton's transport division alone has invested more than £20 million on new vehicles, significantly more than in previous years," says

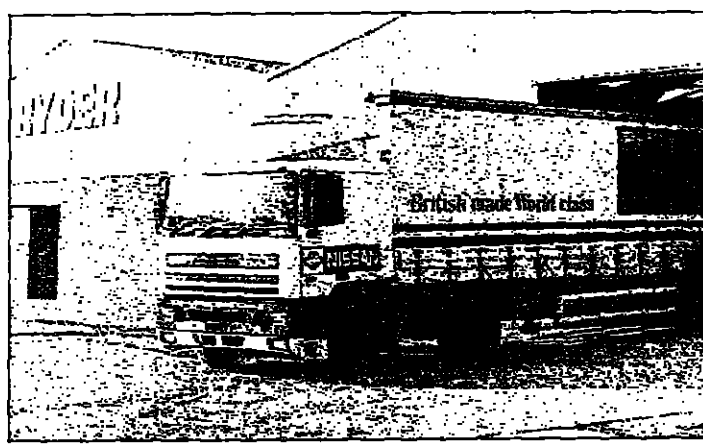
Alastair Elder, the managing director of Wincanton Transport.

Contract hire and rental is also enjoying a period of growth. Ryder bought two hire and rental companies last year before rounding off 1994 by buying Federal Express's operations, Systemline and Systemcare. The marketing director, Sue Lovell, says that Ryder has an aggressive purchasing and replacement programme for vehicles this year which will help increase overall sales.

She feels that retailers and manufacturers are now having to make decisions about implementing transport programmes because they have put them off for so long during the recession. But Ms Lovell does sound a cautionary note — interest rates may rise again.

For Ryder, the beginning of the year has kicked off in a promising way. "We are sustaining the growth in business which we were enjoying in the last quarter," she says.

She adds, however: "There is nothing to be blasé about. The green shoots are not going to grow into massive trees."



Riding to a record: registrations showed a huge increase last year

tax profit increase from £104.9 million to £105.6 million in the year to October 1, 1994.

BOC Distribution, a company which went on the acquisition trail last year, agrees with Mr Pellew's forecast on business growth. The situation year-on-year has remained static, says BOC.

The director, Roy Littmoden, says: "There is no higher level of confidence now than there was a year ago." He says that BOC is still buying new vehicles but they were mainly for replacement. Acquisitions are still part of BOC's business plan but they

vehicle sales are not necessarily a direct result of increased consumer demand and increased manufacturing output, but are a reflection of the changing nature of the distribution function. "We are all constantly looking to make our investments work harder," says Mr Dowley, "and in this industry, this equates to being able to move at least the same, if not more, goods in fewer vehicles, across fewer kilometres."

Not everybody is quite as cautious. Hays Distribution Services is forecasting an expenditure of more than £25

Dean Stiles looks at tempting finance packages for transport operators

Now is the time for the best deals on wheels

As Britain comes out of recession, haulage firms are finding that it has never been easier to raise money for truck and van acquisitions. An increasing number are taking advantage of the flexible and attractive deals now on offer from financiers.

Members of the Finance & Leasing Association provided £1.7 billion worth of vehicles in 1993, an increase of 18 per cent on the previous year. The fall in interest rates has made hire purchase rather than the traditional option of leasing the preferred choice, especially for smaller companies, while contract-hire deals have almost doubled.

All of Britain's high-street banks, through their specialist subsidiaries, are demonstrating a willingness to understand the specialist needs of the haulage industry by offering a range of carefully tailored finance packages designed to tempt large and small road-transport operators. Hire-purchase deals in 1993, valued at £961 million, were up 43 per cent on the previous year and accounted for 55.8 per cent of FLA member company finance deals in the road-transport industry. The biggest growth was in contract-hire finance, which almost doubled. Conversely, leasing at £762 million showed a 4 per cent fall over the year.

Hire purchase, or lease purchase as it is sometimes known, is a popular medium-term hiring facility, providing the customer with the option to acquire title to the vehicle in return for a purchase fee at the end of the hire period.

In the nine years from 1984



Source: Motor Transport

to 1993, leasing accounted for more than half the value of all truck-finance agreements, according to FLA figures, and was seen as the cheapest option for funding truck purchases. An important variant is the contract-hire facility. At present about a fifth of all new trucks are funded by contract hire and this is likely to increase. As a finance method, it is especially attractive to truck operators whose businesses are heavily regulated with strict enforcement of vehicle maintenance standards as well as the need to comply with operator licensing restrictions.

Leasing has grown over the past 20 years from virtually zero to become the principal form of medium-term business finance. Its attraction for haulage companies, whose principal assets are usually trucks, is the ability to bring new assets into use usually with only one rental to be paid in advance. A truck put to work immediately will become a self-financing asset.

For small companies, devoid of capital, it has been the only way to expand the business, while for larger, better-financed companies, it allows capital to be more usefully employed elsewhere.

Leasing agreements fall into two categories — a finance lease or an operating lease. Operating leases are long-term fixed-price rental deals where the truck operator is responsible for the maintenance of the equipment. The finance company owns the vehicle and charges rentals based on an estimate of how much the vehicle will be worth at the end of the contract.

A finance lease is a long-term hire agreement where the finance company allows the operator to use the truck for an agreed hire period but the operator takes most of the risk of ownership.

Roads are turning green

Being "green" is becoming an increasingly important issue for transport and distribution companies and one that they can no longer ignore. Some firms have already adopted environmentally friendly practices, such as using green diesel and low-emission engines.

Those that have not will be forced to become "green". There are about half a million trucks on Britain's roads which are subject to emission tests. The large majority of trucks over 7.5 tonnes have to be equipped with speed limiters.

Now the industry faces the introduction of tougher controls designed to reduce pollution and congestion in Britain.

A report has just been published by the Departments of Transport and Environment which looks at ways of improving air quality. It recommends consulting the industry on possible ways of improving environmental performance and setting up a working party to discuss the retro-fit of particulate traps on diesel engines.

The Government is already considering a number of recommendations which have been put forward by the Royal Commission on Environment Pollution. These include halving expenditure on motorways and trunk roads; tightening EU emission levels; and increasing the amount of freight moved by rail from 6.4 per cent in 1993 to 20 per cent by 2010. The recommendations could offer the start of a coherent transport policy in Britain. But the transport and distribution industry has attacked the recommendations as being unrealistic and damaging to Britain's economy.

The industry admits more can and should be done to improve the environment but fears the cost. Companies are now concerned they will lose their competitiveness with European rivals or even go out of business. They want the Government to provide financial incentives and encourage companies to become "green". The Road Haulage Association says acceptance of the commission's proposals will mean the cost of delivering goods by road will increase.

The Freight Transport Association says increasing fuel and truck tax will fuel inflation rather than move freight off roads and onto the railways.

Transport cannot afford to ignore the environment, says Maureen Gaines

Haulage companies, vehicle manufacturers and trade associations have their own ideas about how to get the industry more environmentally aware.

The British Road Federation agrees. Andrew Pharoah, the federation's campaign co-ordinator, says: "If we do not take account of these areas, we will lose investment to other European countries which do see road transport as an important area."

Disappointment was expressed at the Chancellor's decision to freeze the duty on gas-powered vehicles in last November's Budget.

Natural gas has a zero pollutant level and is a cleaner alternative to the Euro 3 and 3 low-emission diesel engines. However, the tax duty on gas is currently four times higher than on diesel or petrol.

BOC Distribution Services and Lane Group are just two companies which have realised the environmental benefits of using natural gas vehicles. Sam De Beaux, chief engineer of BOC Distribution, says: "This is a valuable alternative but we need government assistance. There have to be incentives."

Fuel is one of the largest costs incurred by a transport operator — TNT Express, with more than 3,000 vehicles and trailers, uses 50 million litres of fuel annually. Doubling fuel prices means an operator has no choice but to pass the cost on to customers and, ultimately, the consumer.

Fitting and maintaining particulate traps on diesel engines could cost £4,000 per vehicle. The Government has made it clear it wants more freight moved by rail and has introduced a number of incentives to try and achieve this.

Both the Road Haulage Association and the FTA would welcome any move to maximise the amount of freight moved by rail. But they feel it is not realistic unless all shops are going to be served by railheads. Also, some of Britain's transport infrastructure

Country, there is no alternative to using roads for freight. Environmental lobby group Transport 2000 believes priorities should be set for road use. There is a need to decide where and when priority should be given to freight vehicles, as opposed to other road users.

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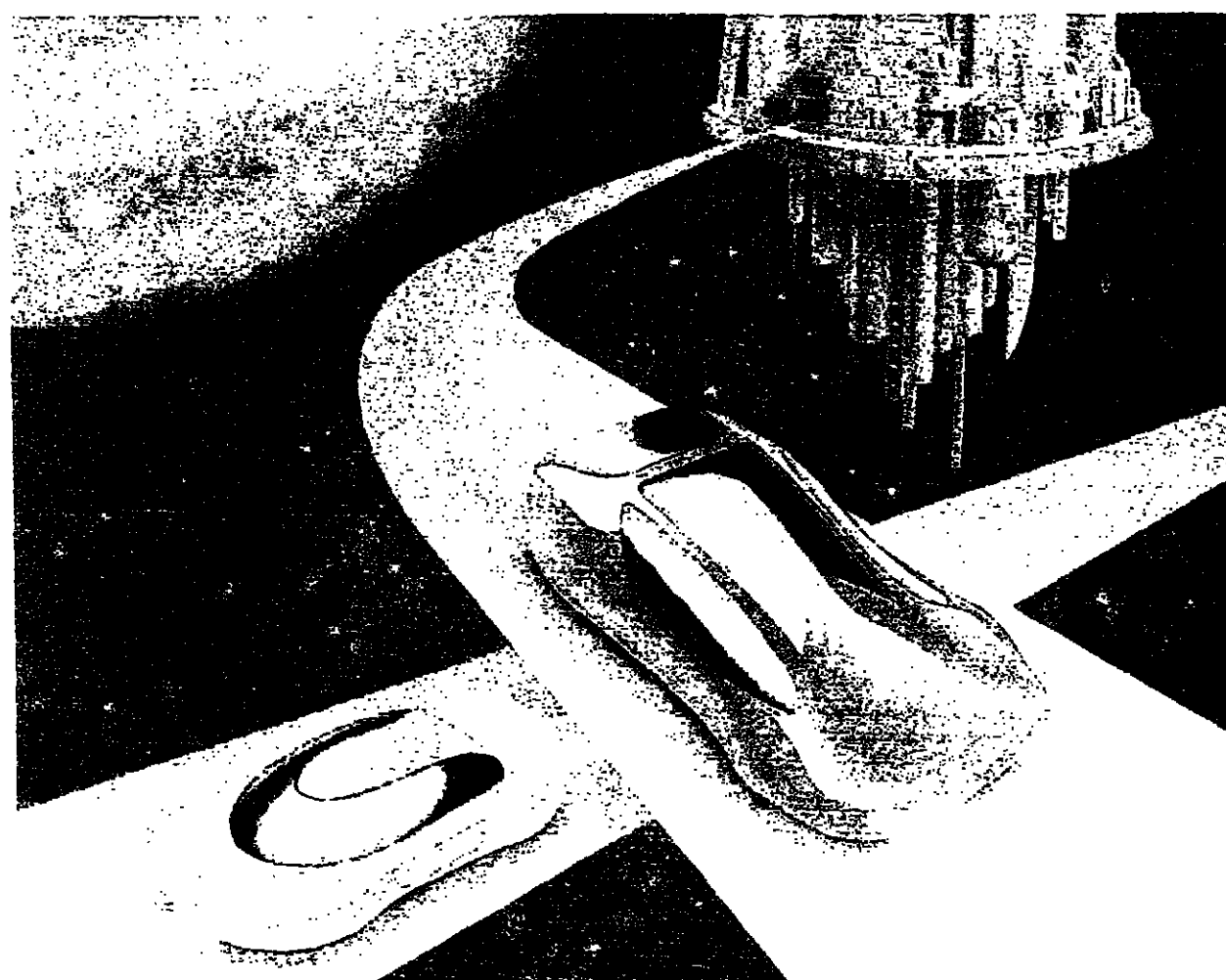
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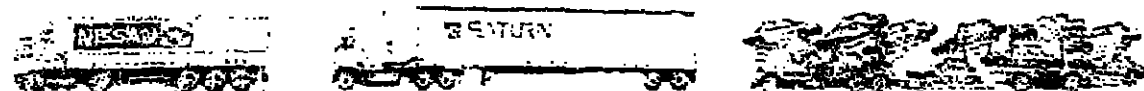
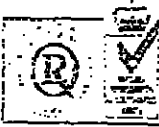
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In the van of the battle

John Aldridge
on the van
market's
struggle out of
recession

The British van market has a widely varied clientele. Some small businesses buy new vans, but many more live on second-hand ones, often those sold off by the larger fleets such as those of the gas, electricity and water companies. Telecom and Royal Mail. These last two purchase in huge volumes. For example, Royal Mail has orders for as many as 9,500 Ford Escort vans for delivery over the next three years — that is about 60 a week. Total sales of some other makes are less than that.

In recession the van market took a worse knock than trucks. Some small businesses ceased trading, and many others that survived stopped buying. That depressed second-hand values so much that some larger buyers of new vans decided to keep their fleets longer, rather than sell them for low prices. But there is a limit on how long old vehicles can be kept running. Repair costs will be high and fuel consumption poorer. Now replacement programmes are getting under way again in big fleets, second-hand models in better condition will gradually become available and revive the used-van market.

Sales of new vans last year were better than some expected, with nearly 170,000 registered, compared with fewer than 145,000 in 1993 — a disastrous year. Sales are still improving and one maker, LDV, thinks 1996 will be even better than this year.

For the buyer, the choice is huge. Ford is the top supplier by a wide margin, and with a wide range. It sold nearly 80,000 last year — nearly half of all vans sold. Next comes Vauxhall with a total of fewer than 25,000, followed by LDV,



On the move: this year's Ford Transit — the company is easily the largest supplier in the United Kingdom

once part of the Leyland Daf empire, with more than 13,000. Birmingham-based LDV has re-established itself after its management buy-out in remarkable fashion. It is followed by Mercedes-Benz which sold more than 8,600, after which came Volkswagen with a wider spread of models and sales of 8,200.

At the other end of the market are a handful of small players, some selling fewer than ten a week, usually car-derived vans. It gives another product for the dealers: the man who buys a car may buy his van from the same source.

Opinions are divided about car dealers selling vans, and some larger volume sellers have also appointed more specialist outfits able to give a higher standard of service. Peugeot Talbot now has more than 50 specialist van centres, and Citroën has 90 Relay specialist dealers, Relay being Citroën's main model. Both makers and Fiat sell a van

sourced from the same European plant and collectively known as the Sevel van. Some 1.2 million Sevels have been built in 13 years, and the range has just been extensively improved. The plant is owned jointly by the French PSA Group and Fiat. In the UK, Citroën sells the van as the Relay, Fiat as the Ducato and Peugeot Talbot as the Boxer.

The Sevel is not the only joint project. Fiat/Iveco is co-operating with Renault jointly to develop and tool for a new range to replace the present Renault Master. A proposed replacement for the VW LT 35 van will use parts from the new T1 range from Mercedes-Benz that was unveiled to customers at this month's Brussels show. Surprisingly, the new T1 is a rear-wheel drive, like Ford's successful Transit, but unlike the Sevel.

Also unveiled at Brussels was Nissan's new Vanette Cargo, to be built in Spain by Nissan subsidiary, Iberica.

Petrol-engined versions will use a 1.6 litre unit from Nissan's British car plant.

With large vans, a problem is the bodywork options. Ford has bowed to demand for higher capacity by offering high-roof, high-volume models that are converted by Motor Panels at Wigan. Partially-built vans come from the Southampton Ford Transit plant, and the completed range is sold through Ford's European dealers.

LDV has pushed the "one-stop shopping" concept fur-

ther than most and now offers in-house constructed, glass-reinforced plastics (grp) bodied integral vans as well as its own smaller volume, pressed-steel bodies.

At the smallest end of the market, Suzuki's Super Carry sold 1,465 vans last year compared with 345 in 1993.

Perhaps the van market is moving in two directions: as large a volume as possible if you are carrying loads for delivery, and as small as possible if you are carrying only tools and equipment.

Is it time for a change of track?

Adam Hill
looks at the case
for combined
road and rail
transport

As part of his duties, Brian Mawhinney, Secretary of State for Transport, faces the challenge of tempting the world of commerce into taking part of its livelihood away from a flexible, tried, reliable and cheap transport system — the road — and putting it onto rail.

The view that this is both desirable and necessary is receiving increased official support. The chairman of last year's Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, Sir John Houghton, argued that "major transfer of long-distance freight from road to rail is an essential part of a sustainable transport policy".

The idea of combined, or intermodal, transport is not new: loads are moved by road to railheads, put onto rail wagons for transportation to another railhead and collected by road again.

To prove economical, journey length is an important factor. "We cannot really be competitive for distances less than 250 miles," a spokesman for Railfreight Distribution, the international freight arm of British Rail, admits. That rules out the four-fifths of freight journeys in this country which are only 50 miles or so. But the opening of the Channel tunnel for freight traffic last year has provided a focus for the development of intermodal transport. Now, more than ever, there is a European dimension.

The Government's recent rejection of calls for a 44-tonne weight limit for all journeys of vehicles using British roads (it is presently 38 tonnes until 1999, when it may rise to 40 tonnes under an EC directive) is partly designed to give rail freight a chance to prosper.

At present, if a lorry is on a journey to or from a railhead, it can have a gross vehicle weight (the weight of the vehicle plus its cargo) of 44 tonnes, and thus the payload for consignors using combined transport, as opposed to carrying goods purely by road, can be maximised. The Department of Transport is giving the arrangement time to settle down, and will review the situation before the end of the year.

"The benefit of 44 tonnes in relation to European business is that we can plug into a pan-European network," the Railfreight Distribution spokesman explains. The normal continental limit is 44 tonnes.

Of the three main methods of combined transport, the movement of containers or swap-bodies — both of which

are essentially boxes that can be carried on the back of an articulated lorry, put on to a train and taken off at the other end — has been part of the debate for years.

The bimodal system, technically more sophisticated than swap-bodies, but relatively new, effectively turns a road trailer into a rail wagon. The construction of a trailer's chassis to rail standards allows a railway bogie to be slotted under it to create a wagon which will run on the tracks.

Meanwhile the Piggyback Consortium — a disparate group of companies and concerns, including Euro-tunnel, Kent County Council, Railtrack and Powergen — advocates the loading of articulated lorry trailers direct on to wagons, with appropriate modifications to both.

The odds in favour of a significant switch of freight to rail do not seem especially high. Mr Mawhinney believes that rail privatisation will help the development of combined transport, but delays in privatisation are not helping business.

James Hookham, head of rail-freight policy for the Freight Transport Association, says the delays are discouraging companies from risking their money or reputation by moving to rail. "The message to the Government is, for better or worse, let's get on with it. The one thing sapping confidence in railways is uncertainty," he says.

Breaking free of the Whitehall gridlock

Dean Stiles
reports on the
move to
deregulation

Road hauliers in Britain are subject to the most stringent regulations of any European country.

This problem may be eased by the Government's deregulation legislation, enacted last November with implementation later this year, which sets out to address many of the bureaucratic burdens faced by hauliers. Until now, road transport regulations have concentrated on two major issues — vehicle safety and the environmental impact of vehicles. The public is protected by an enforcement system that sets minimum standards of maintenance for vehicles and requires operators to apply regularly, every five years, for a licence to operate commercial vehicles.

The system is administered by seven Traffic Commissioners, appointed by the Department of Transport, who have the power to refuse a licence application if they believe the operator is unsuitable. Unsuitability may be decided on financial grounds, or because operating vehicles from a site would adversely affect people living near by. A separate licence is needed for every location from which a company chooses to operate commercial vehicles of more than 3.5 tonnes gross weight. There are formal procedures through which the police, the local authority and local residents may put forward objections to a licence application.

In theory, the system is beneficial. Every five years an operator is forced through the discipline of applying for a licence for each site used. But, in practice, most applications are granted unopposed, as a formality. The result is that road transport operators are often faced with the expense of applying for a licence needlessly and are burdened with uncertainty about whether they will be allowed to use certain sites.

This system is unique to Britain. No other European Union member state includes specific environmental provisions in its commercial vehicle controls. However, this year the system changes, with the introduction of continuous licensing. Although the specific details are to be decided, licences to operate commercial vehicles will now be granted for an indefinite period. Critics of deregulation claim this will lead to a cowboy's charter and

lower standards in the industry, especially of vehicle maintenance. However, apart from the fact that cowboy operators rarely hold a licence and operate outside the system, the deregulation laws should increase the powers of the Traffic Commissioners to enforce maintenance standards and monitor the environmental impact of transport sites.

The deregulation laws require a review of the performance of an operator every five years, but unlike the present system, where the review date is fixed, Traffic Commissioners will have the power to review at any time and take appropriate action.

This means that, under the new system, the police or local

performance against minimum standards. The deregulation laws also enhance the Traffic Commissioners' role in determining the suitability of a site for commercial vehicle use. The deregulation laws require a transport site to have adequate space to park vehicles. It is possible under the existing system to have a licence allowing the operation of more vehicles than can be parked on the site at any one time.

These new measures should help prohibit a common cause of complaint about transport sites, made by local residents: that trucks are forced to queue outside the site entrance inconveniencing local households.

Although, under the deregulation laws, an operating centre cannot be closed solely on environmental grounds, the Traffic Commissioner can attach environmental conditions to the licence. The Department of Transport believes that since this protection cannot be extended to other hauliers coming onto the same site, creeping intensification of site usage will be prevented.

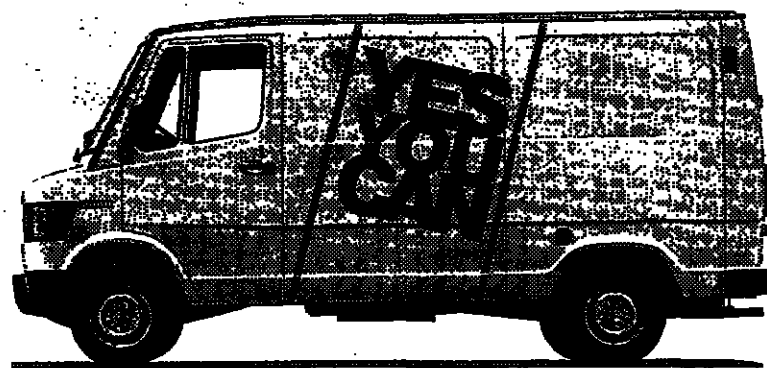
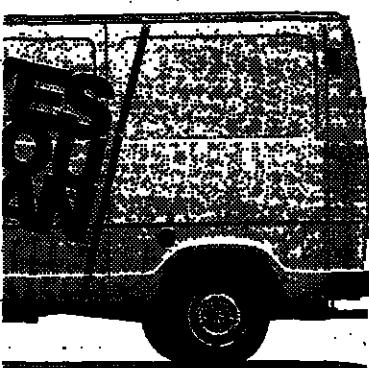
Objections to a licence should be much easier under the provisions of the deregulation laws, especially when these are made by members of the public. The Traffic Commissioner will be able to accept objections even if not made strictly according to the rules and regulations.

This provision puts the Continuous Operator Licensing system on a sounder legal footing in not denying natural justice. And unlike the present system in which objections have just 21 days in which to lodge an objection, they will, under continuous licensing, have five years to do so.

However, there is still considerable uncertainty about the details of the new system. The Department of Transport is undertaking a massive review of its operations, including the present Traffic Area Offices headed by the Traffic Commissioners, which administer the operator licensing system.

There is considerable pressure for much of the department's work in this area to be contracted out, and this includes the functions of the Vehicle Inspectorate — the Agency which carries out vehicle inspections and ensures that minimum maintenance standards are met.

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** Finance plan for business users only. Rental quoted for illustrative purposes based on a Mercedes Finance/Mileage Contract, £4796.40 (incl. VAT) deposit followed by 36 monthly payments of £224.78 with optional full payment of £2973.24 based on 20,000 miles p.a. A Doc. Fee of £58.75 (incl. VAT) is payable with the first monthly payment. Credit provided subject to status by Mercedes-Benz Finance Limited, Marlborough Court, Milton Keynes, MK14 6YR. Written quotations available on request.

NEWS

Heath leads pro-Europe backlash

The Cabinet's Euro-sceptic line on further European integration further divided the Conservative party with Sir Edward Heath leading the pro-European backlash.

The former prime minister said it was a "great mistake" for Mr Major to bare his hand and side with the Eurosceptics in the run-up to the intergovernmental conference. Page 1

Police caution cut to 37 words

Nearly six months after lawyers, civil liberties groups and police commanders rejected a hefty new 60-word police caution for suspects, the Home Office is launching a pruned version of 37 words. It reads: "You do not have to say anything. But it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence." Page 1

IRA freedom plan

The Irish Government is planning to release up to five IRA prisoners before the end of their sentences as a reward for the ceasefire. Page 1

Gooch declares

Graham Gooch announced that his 20-year international cricket career will end after the fifth Test next week. He is unwilling to tolerate a decline in his standards. Page 1

Row over Santer

A furious argument which blew up at Westminster and across the airwaves over Jacques Santer's latest speech on Europe. Page 2

Tory revolt threat

The Government is facing a rough ride over the level of Whitehall cash grants to local councils and senior ministers are fearful they could be hit by a Tory revolt. Page 2

Killer burglar

A man discovered the battered and strangled body of his elderly mother after her killer apparently broke into the family's large home in Wembley, north west London. Page 3

Setback for PoWs

British survivors of the Japanese wartime prison camps have suffered a serious setback in their campaign to win compensation for the hardships they suffered in captivity. Page 4

Royal hair a snip at £500

A lock of dark brown hair from the head of Charles I, executed 346 years ago today, is likely to fetch about £500 at auction in London. The hair was cut from the King's temple and beard when the Prince Regent authorised opening the tomb at Windsor in 1813 after workmen had accidentally broken through the wall of the vault. Page 8

Quango dispute

The critics of quangocracy are seeking to destroy new forms of accountability to return to discredited ones. Agenda. Page 6

Class war

The fiendish schoolgirls of St Trinian's, immortalised in the cartoons of Ronald Searle, are to be resurrected in an animated feature film based on the original drawings. Page 7

Highland revolt

The Government is facing a revolt among Scottish peers and lairds over the decision to axe the sleeper to Fort William in the Highlands and the Scottish Motorail service. Page 8

Fini finishes

The Italian "post-Fascist" leader, Gianfranco Fini, ended a colourful congress of his National Alliance party after dissolving its main component. Page 9

Deng speculation

The latest attempt by Deng Xiaoping's daughter Deng Rong to "clarify" her remarks about the declining health of China's senior leader has done little to dampen feverish speculation. Page 10

Peru attacks

Fears of all-out war between Peru and Ecuador over a disputed border area grew as Peruvian troops firing mortars and backed by helicopters launched a "massive offensive". Page 11



A canoeist on the River Wey in Surrey yesterday after days of heavy rain. There are serious floods throughout northern Europe. Pages 1, 9

BUSINESS

Interest rates: The CBI has asked the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England not to raise interest rates when they meet this week, telling them that new evidence shows that its fear of rising wage settlements was mistaken. Economists still expect rates to rise in February or March. Page 44

Bankruptcy fears: One of Germany's most prominent engineering companies has been in talks with its bankers in the hope of gaining financial support. Page 44

Super sale: Last night's American football Super Bowl attracted the world's most costly television advertising. Products such as Pepsi and Budweiser beer were promoted at a cost of \$40,000 dollars per second. Page 44

FEATURES

Easy decision: "If you want people to stick to the status quo, offer them alternatives." Nigel Hawkes on choice. Page 14

Treasured fashion: Tutankhamun was one of the first champions of imitation leopardskin. Page 14

Unlikely force: Russia's mothers are fighting against the once powerful military. Page 15

Libby Purves: "There was always something depressing about seeing an expert reduced to sweating just because there was a microphone or camera in the room." Page 15

EDUCATION

Key issues: Labour will face the "embrace of heresies and the slaughter of sacred cows," says Tony Wright. MP. Page 37

SPORTS

Pulp heroes: All the major cinemas in Greater Manchester are showing either *Reservoir Dogs* or *Pulp Fiction*. Kate Alderson on the influence of Quentin Tarantino's films among Britain's youth. Page 13

Future harmony: No one working in the opera world in South Africa knows if they will have a job in a year. So it was a complete act of faith which resulted in their first full-length opera. Page 13

Crazy century: That long-standing avant-garde gang, *The People Show*, is back on form with a burst of invention. Page 12

Sudden success: The makers of *Shallow* are discovering that after a hit low-budget British film, suddenly everybody wants to know you. Page 13

LIFE

IN THE TIMES

FALL GUYS

Each year, 23,000 Britons are injured while skiing. How easy is it to claim?

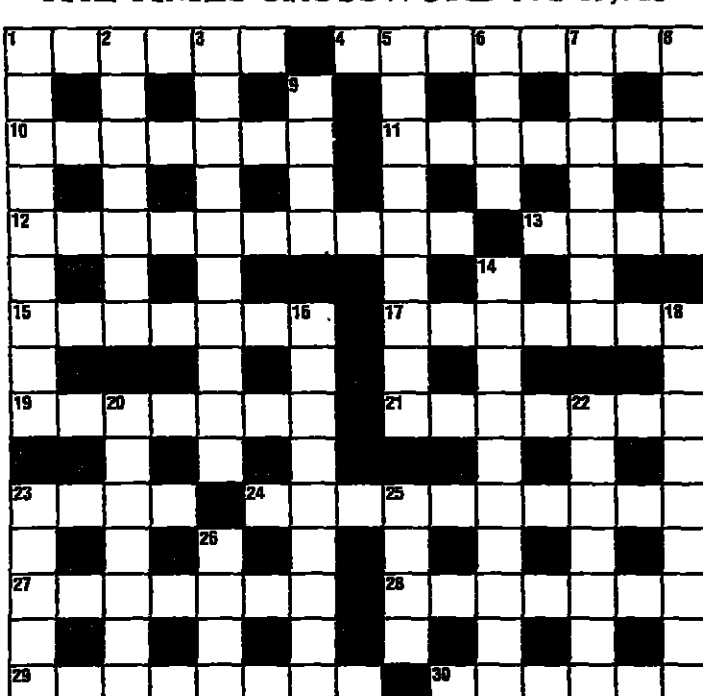
THE 20p WEEKEND

How to have a luxury weekend for 20p — or 20 per cent off a holiday



A canoeist on the River Wey in Surrey yesterday after days of heavy rain. There are serious floods throughout northern Europe. Pages 1, 9

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,765



- ACROSS**
- The saying of masses or collects (6).
 - Lying in, black man had no right to avoid being fired (8).
 - Large amount, including money and silver, in sack (17).
 - Old, small volume I had to deposit the head's back (7).
 - Things that must be put right in bullfighting — the facts (10).
 - Fixative to stop the teeth moving (4).
 - Represent a great new American songster (7).
 - Confirmed account after the French left (7).
 - Hiring out a horse with a sort of cough (7).
 - Walk unsteadily through most of the abbey (17).
 - He is right to hold on to property in retrospect (4).
- DOWN**
- Dance to score in children's game (9).
 - It provides lateral control in lone air trip (7).
 - The sort of tack one gets on board (7-3).
 - Close weeds in rural areas (9).
 - Pack the floor (4).
 - Account for former flat (7).
 - The system for counting pieces of eight, presumably (5).
 - Hand over to heirs utterly (4).
 - Mole's holiday on the river (10).
 - Deplorable rude noise (9).
 - In a position to win match after set-back (9).
 - Confirmed to two sleeping places (7).
 - System providing a digital read-out (7).
 - Down a dirty section of the pits (5).
 - St Paul's has one in the same state (4).
 - Distribute notes (4).

KNOCKARDO

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle

No 19,764 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockardo, a superb Spiced Single Malt Scotch Whisky and a fine leather credit card wallet.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

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AA ROADWATCH

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Garmouth, 10°C. Lowest day temp: Garmouth, 4°C. Highest night temp: Garmouth, 4°C. Lowest night temp: Garmouth, 4°C.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7:45 pm. Sun sets: 4:35 pm. Moon rises: 6:54 am. Moon sets: 6:54 am.

Solution to Qualifier Puzzle No 19,756

SITRIPE BALANCES
CEREAL NO
RAPPORT ABDOEN
PERRIDIVER MOLE
H C I L S
EMERGES ENTIRELY
A E N A B
PLATTER TILLAGE
D E R A P A
DOVE PALLAGIQUA
UETATATISU
MARTINI PAINTER
A S E N T I F
STIERAGE LEGEND

FORECAST

General: over England and Wales most places will have a dry day with plenty of sunshine. Rain, with snow on hills, will spread to Wales and the west of England during the evening. Scotland, too, will be sunny for much of the day, although the west will cloud over with rain in the evening and snow on the hills. Northern Ireland should have a sunny morning, with rain by mid-afternoon.

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	10	15	2	0	15	5
London	12	10	1	0	15	5
Manchester	11	10	1	0	15	5
Birmingham	11	10	1	0	15	5
Cardiff	11	10	1	0	15	5
Edinburgh	10	15	2	0	15	5
Glasgow	10	15	2	0	15	5
London	12	10	1	0	15	5
Manchester	11	10	1	0	15	5
Birmingham	11	10	1	0	15	5
Cardiff	11	10	1	0	15	5
Edinburgh	10	15	2	0	15	5
Glasgow	10	15	2	0	15	5

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
Algeria	15	10	1	0	20	5
Amman	15	10	1	0	20	5
Baghdad	15	10	1	0	20	5
Bombay	15	10	1	0	20	5
Buenos Aires	15	10	1	0	20	5
Calcutta	15	10	1	0	20	5
Cairo	15	10	1	0	20	5
Colon	15	10	1	0	20	5
Hong Kong	15	10	1	0	20	5
London	12	10	1	0	15	5
Manila	15	10	1	0	20	5
Moscow	15	10	1	0	20	5
New York	15	10	1	0	20	5
Paris	15	10	1	0	20	5
Rangoon	15	10	1	0	20	5
Shanghai	15	10	1	0	20	5
Singapore	15	10	1	0	20	5
Tokyo	15	10	1	0	20	5
Yokohama	15	10	1	0	20	5

FORECAST

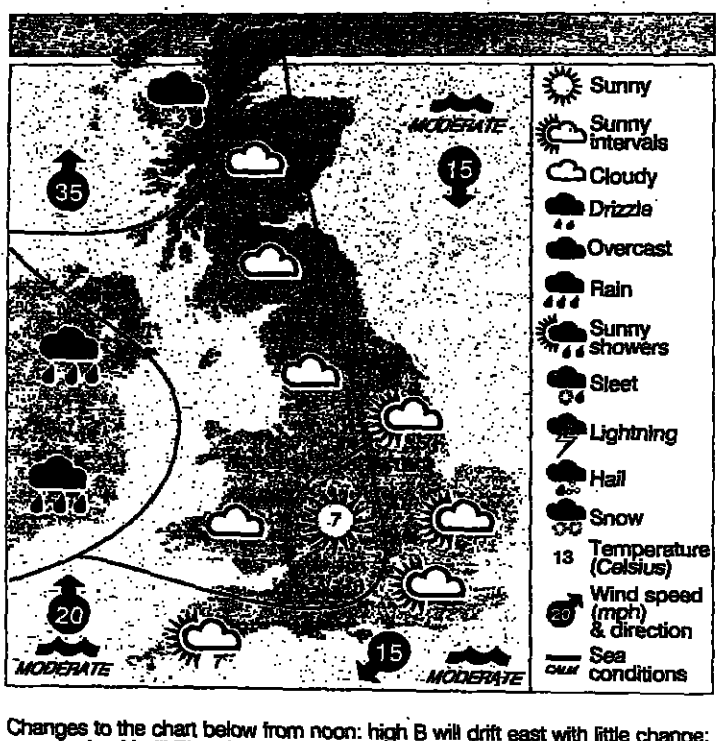
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Edinburgh	10	15	2	0	15	5
Glasgow	10	15	2	0	15	5
London	12	10	1	0	15	5
Manchester	11	10	1	0	15	5
Birmingham	11	10	1	0	15	5
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Glasgow	10	15	2	0	15	5

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Colon	15	10	1	0	20	5
Hong Kong	15	10	1	0	20	5
London	12	10	1	0	15	5
Manila	15	10	1	0	20	5
Moscow	15	10	1	0	20	5
New York	15	10	1	0	20	5
Paris	15	10	1	0	20	5
Rangoon	15	10	1	0	20	5
Shanghai	15	10	1	0	20	5
Singapore	15	10	1	0	20	5
Tokyo	15	10	1	0	20	5
Yokohama	15	10	1	0	20	5



Changes to the chart below from noon: high B will drift east with little change; complex low Y will fill slightly as it moves east; low S will move northeast and fill



HIGHEST TIDES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
Aberdeen	10	15	2	0	15	5
London	12	10	1	0	15	5
Manchester	11	10	1	0	15	5
Birmingham	11	10	1	0	15	5
Cardiff	11	10	1	0	15	5
Edinburgh	10	15	2	0	15	5
Glasgow	10	15	2	0	15	5
London	12	10	1	0	15	5
Manchester	11	10	1	0	15	5
Birmingham	11	10	1	0	15	5
Cardiff	11	10	1	0	15	5
Edinburgh	10	15	2	0	15	5
Glasgow	10	15	2	0	15	5

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SECRET



24

Stirring return by Agassi opens way to title



25

England left at a loss by Gooch's farewell declaration



29

**Starring
role for
Zodiac as
indoor
records fall**



33

Getting to grips with Somerset's centre of excellence

TIMES SPORT



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Ten men bow to Tottenham

BY DAVID MILLER



**FA
CUP**

A supporters lobby, SAFC — Supporters Action For Change — was handing out press releases before the game calling for more positive assistance in the production of a successful team, from Bob

The transformation at Tottenham achieved by Gerry Francis since he became their manager has been truly remarkable: two defeats in 14 matches, both against Aston Villa, including his first game

FA CUP FIFTH
 (continued from page 10)

Worcestershire
 Wednesday, Nov. 20
Queens Park Rangers
 Dudley v Oxford
 Watford v Colchester
 Gloucester City v Luton
 Barnet v Coventry
 (Games to be played on Nov. 21)

SOUTH ROUND
 Saturday, Nov. 21
 Liverpool v Bristol City
 Wrexham v Cardiff
 Mansfield v Luton
 Southampton v

CUP DESTINY **Wolves** have a 25% chance of winning the trophy, says a survey pool. 10-11% chance of reaching the quarter-finals. **Queens Park Rangers** have a 10% chance of winning the trophy, 20-1 chance of reaching the quarter-finals. **Wolves** 10-11% chance of winning the trophy, 20-1 chance of reaching the quarter-finals. **Wolves** 10-11% chance of winning the trophy, 20-1 chance of reaching the quarter-finals.

[illegible]

shot that flew wide: Kubicki, coming up in support on the right, had a drive blocked; and, soon after the half-hour, Sunderland had their best chance when a lovely swerve from left half forward, back-heads across the goalmouth and Bennett, positioned just beyond the far post, had a good sight of goal but put his hand wide of the far right hand post. There was plenty for the home crowd to cheer.

However, with the wind in their favour, Tottenham were instantly on the hunt in the second half. Anderson soon smashed a low drive into the side netting. Barmby, put away by Kinsman's diagonal low pass to the left, side-stepped a defender to come inside and fire a right-foot shot wide of the far post.

Tottenham's interchanging up front was beginning to bewilder the Sunderland defence. Sherringham, finding

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City's hard-luck score	26
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Delayed pictures banish negative thoughts

The pursuit of live coverage can be an exhausting business, never more so than when the action is in Australia. If the late nights do not get you, the early mornings will. After a week of keeping tabs on both the tennis at the Australian Open and the fourth Test, the armchair equivalent of jet lag set in. Suddenly, staying up for Channel 4's Super Bowl did not seem such a good idea.

So was it all worth it? Well, yes and no. Certainly, for instance, there can be few worse starts to the day than hearing Bob Willis gloomily pointing out for the umpteenth time that Slater and Healy are matching each other run for run. Or Blewett and Healy come to that. Another day, another marathon Australian partnership. Yawn.

But yesterday got off to even more unsettling start, as a sleepy flick of the remote control brought forth the dulcet tones of John Barrett announcing the arrival of Pete Sampras's twenty-first ace. Twenty-first? Yes, despite my best intentions to join Sue Barker and BBC1 at the ungodly hour of 5.45, I had overslept. In desperation, I fumbled with the remote control again and thankfully found Eurosport. There was David Mercer, there was Frew McMillan and there, to my eternal relief, was the first set. Thank heaven for "as live" broadcasting.

In fact, the BBC's coverage was not live either. But as a member of the European Broadcasting Union, which had acquired the television rights for the Australian



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

Open, the BBC was entitled to pull rank. As a result, its "as live" broadcasts were rather more live than Eurosport's, going out an hour earlier for the women's final and almost two hours for the men's. The logic of putting out recorded coverage at such an early hour was lost on me until halfway through Mary Pierce's wonderful victory over Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, when the answer — along with Saturday — dawned. At 6.30 in the morning, I defy anyone to

have the physical dexterity to use Ceefax for the result. Actually, it was fitting to finish the tournament with Eurosport, for, unlike the BBC, which just cherry-picked the finals, the French-owned channel had covered the whole lot, showing two matches live — the noisy encounter between Andre Agassi and Patrick Rafter and the epic quarter-final between Pete Sampras and Jim Courier.

In the recent past, I have been fairly rude about

Eurosport's tennis coverage, which often condemns a single commentator to talking over a monitor in Paris for hours on end. But this was a big improvement. Mercer and Simon Reed may still have been in France rather than Flinders Park, but they were alternating matches, and for the two big matches a day were joined by McMillan, who is as good a commentary partner as he was in doubles. The result was fresher, livelier commentary all round. In fact, with a producer in Melbourne faxing back the latest news and gossip, it was almost possible to forget they were not actually in Australia. I repeat almost — it's not something to be encouraged.

Both channels, of course, were helped by a tournament

that at last served up popular successes and moving defeats. The pirate king won his crown and, in his moving tributes to the ailing Tim Gullikson, Sampras probably won more friends in losing a match than he ever made winning one. But as Eurosport's coverage of the woefully-attended quarter-finals revealed, it was the women's game that was in real need of a lift. Mary Pierce, according to Barrett, got a terrific welcome from the Melbourne crowd, which he put down to her playing "such an exciting game". If my knowledge of the Australian male — all right, makes everywhere — is anything to go by, I suspect it was rather more to with the fact that she has long blonde hair and legs up to her overhauled smash. Certainly cured the armchair jet lag.

Agassi and Pierce fill leading roles

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

THE pirate king and the drama queen, as Andre Agassi and Mary Pierce came to be known here over the past fortnight, filled their roles to the full at Flinders Park. There, over the weekend, they both convincingly deposed the top seeds to be crowned Australian Open champions.

So acutely aware of their images that they are in danger of being portrayed as posters, especially in Pierce's case, they are not impostors. Striking the ball with uncommon power and sharing a single-minded conviction, they romped through their respective fields.

Competing for the first time here, Agassi stole through the bottom half of the draw unusually quietly. Cutting down each of his opponents in straight sets, he was most notable for his wholly remodelled appearance. To complete his resemblance to an extra in the *Mutiny on the Bounty*, he required only a flashing cutlass.

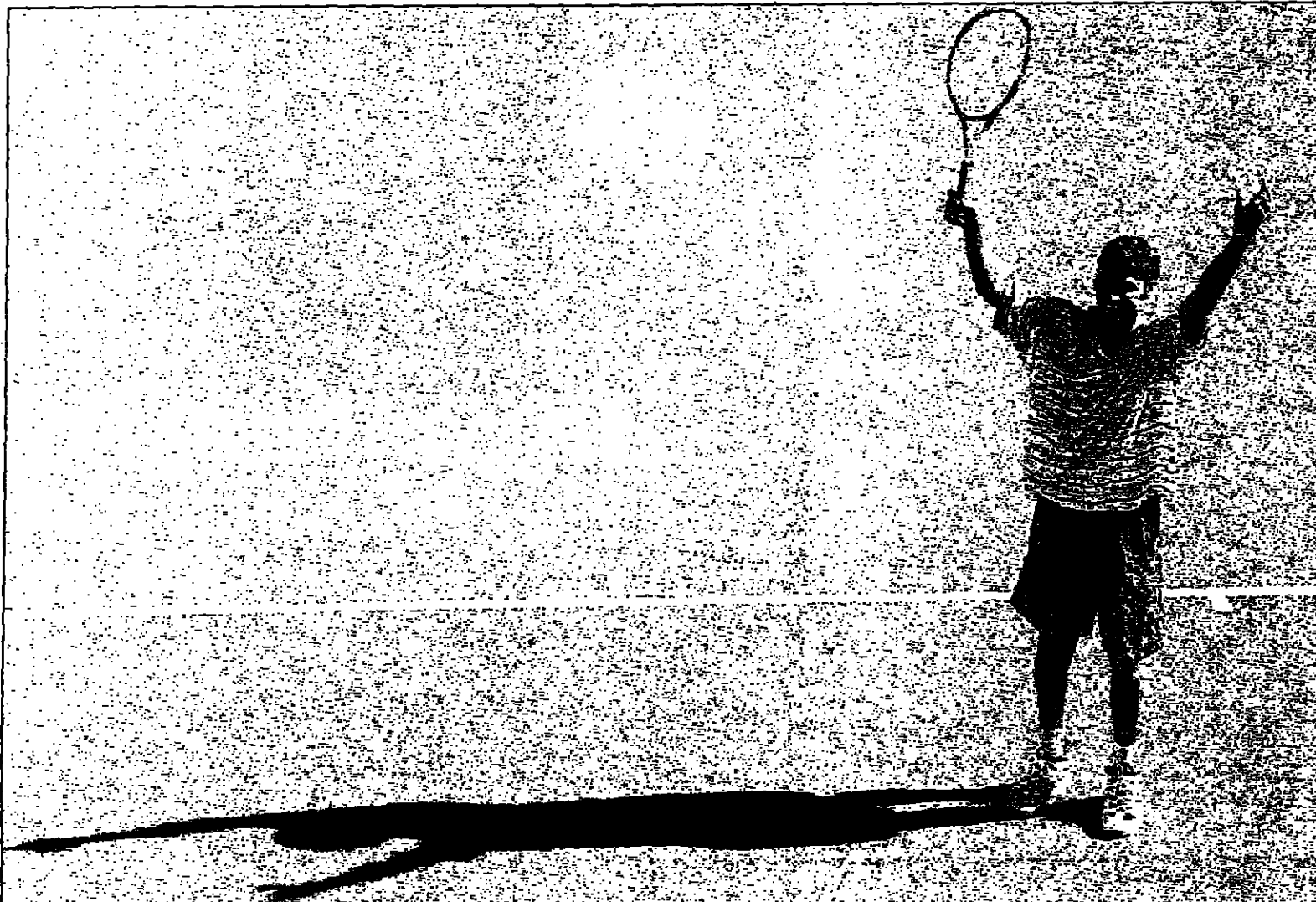
Pete Sampras had endured emotional and physical torment, ordeals that ultimately loosened his hold on the title. Though granted two days' rest, he admitted that his heroic recoveries against Magnus Larsson and especially against Jim Courier had "taken their toll". He was not mentally fresh enough to withstand another battering.

His principal weapon was not working either. Not until the fourth set, when he was determined to score points as quickly as possible to conserve his failing energy, was he putting in more than half of his first services. Under a burning sun, the pressure mounted relentlessly.

Against "the best returner in the world by far", Sampras was three times on the verge of being broken in the ninth game. Once those openings had closed, Agassi was initially unsettled — serving a couple of double faults as he conceded the first set — and then irresistible, establishing a 4-0 lead in the second.

"It was a strange match," Agassi later said, "because you could never be sure who had the momentum. When you thought you had it, you didn't."

Sampras had it when he broke to 2-1 ahead in the third set. A game later, at 2-2,



Agassi enjoys his moment of triumph after beating Sampras in the final of the Australian Open yesterday. Photograph: Craig Golding

he had it no longer. Courageously, he responded to crises with which he had become familiar and saved six break points before, at 6-4 in the tie-break, the final took another turn. It was to be decisive as the native of Las Vegas, with all the intuition of a gambler, laid claim to the prize valued at Aus\$480,000 (£245,000).

"I knew he was going out wide on big points on the deuce side and I had that returner's hunch," Agassi said. "When Pete has set point, that is when you have to go with your hunch." Opening his shoulders, Agassi unleashed a typically uninhibited forehand which clipped the net and fell in.

Sampras, once he had yielded the next three points, wore the air of a desperate man. Although he let loose 13 aces in five games, the rest of his shots were wildly imprecise. He

managed to save two more break points, at 4-4, before going down 4-6, 6-1, 7-6, 6-4 after more than 2½ hours.

His stature has nevertheless been enhanced. Described by misguided critics as being boring, the label has been consigned to the rubbish bin in which it belonged. Potentially tragic circumstances, centring on Tim Gullikson, his ailing coach, compelled Sampras to show in public the face seen previously only in private.

His defeat coincided with the official release of a comforting diagnosis. Gullikson, having been flown to Chicago for further tests on his heart, has returned home "with no evidence of a life-threatening disease". Sampras, during his speech on court, still choked when mentioning his name and had to compose himself.

Agassi has likewise rein-

forced his reputation. In maintaining his renewed, ruthless professionalism, he has prompted the same thought that was directed at Sampras a year ago — that he could complete the grand slam.



Pierce drama queen

"If he stays fit," Sampras himself pronounced, "he's a threat to win every major title of the year."

Pierce is not yet sufficiently equipped to cope on grass at Wimbledon, but she will be a genuine contender in New York and in Paris, where she was the runner-up last year. Tense then, she was defeated by Arantxa Sánchez Vicario.

Against the same opponent here, she was as tentative on Saturday until the conclusion of the fourth game. Featuring five deuces and lasting for more than a dozen minutes, Pierce completed the sequence of breaks of service and dropped only three more games to win 6-3, 6-2 inside 1½ hours.

Sánchez Vicario, allowed only one of the last 15 points, is the reigning French and US Open champion and she will next week claim another hon-

our. She has accumulated enough points to overtake Steffi Graf and become the first Spanish woman, and only the sixth woman overall, to be ranked world No.1.

None of the last three — Graf, Monica Seles and Martina Navratilova — competed in Melbourne. Pierce's triumph, though she did not concede a single set, consequently lacked the authenticity of Agassi's.

Pierce's game, by her own admission, used to be "hit or miss". She has now learnt to hit far more often than miss — and, theatrically, to attract official warnings about wasting time when holding match point — but reservations about her evident control were still expressed by Sánchez Vicario: "We'll see if she's more consistent."

Results, page 32

Sharpe cuts it fine to save Cannock record

BEN SHARPE preserved Cannock's unbeaten record with a goal in the dying seconds of their national hockey league match against Southgate yesterday to force a 2-2 draw (Sydney Friskin writes). The first half had been frustrating for Sharpe, who hit a post from a short corner and had another shot saved by Peters, the Southgate goalkeeper.

Southgate took a 2-0 lead with a goal by Soma Singh from a short corner in the third minute and Waugh added the second from a similar award five minutes later. But the pattern changed in the second half with Southgate on the retreat and Cannock forcing a succession of short corners.

Terrett, a substitute, reduced the lead for Cannock in the 58th minute with a hard shot from Mayer's cross pass and it was Mayer again who set up the chance, in similar fashion, for Sharpe's match-saver.

In a busy weekend, with many leading teams having two matches, Hounslow earned six points with a 2-1 victory over East Grinstead on Saturday and a win by the same score yesterday over Teddington, who led 1-0 at the interval from a goal by McGuire. Two quick goals by Robert Thompson about midway in the second period, however, turned the match.

Old Loughtonians were halted in their tracks at home on Saturday when they lost 3-1 to Havant after taking the lead in the first half, but came back with vengeance yesterday to beat Indian Gymkhana 7-1.

At the end of the day, Old Loughtonians were on top of the first division and Barford Tigers led the second, despite losing 4-0 to St Albans.

Results, tables, page 32

Holley blitz wins Tigers a reprieve

PRAISE, however grudging, is always welcome as Tony Holley discovered on Saturday (Nicholas Harling writes). The 6ft 8in American is not the most elegant of players in the National Basketball Association.

That is unlikely to worry the former graduate of Troy State University, whose 27 points against Derby Bucks earned Thames Valley Tigers, the champions, a flattering 113-96 victory in a Budweiser League encounter. The most impressed observer was George Waldram, the Derby assistant coach. "Holley's on athlete, but boy can he play ball," he said.

Until they buckled in the last quarter, conceding ten of the last 12 points, the Bucks had made a gallant attempt at a shock win.

Sheffield Sharks, the favourites to succeed the Tigers as champions, retained their ten-point lead after overcoming Chester Jets 95-77 with Chris Finch (24 points) leading their scorers.

Pity poor George Waldram scored 35 points only to finish on the losing side for Leicester City Riders. This week, he collected 36 and the Riders still went down, 102-89 at home to London Towers.

Tuigamala at Regal best

Warrington 10
Wigan 40

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

LONG after his team-mates had showered, Va'aiga Tuigamala was still in his kit and ruminating on a first 12 months in rugby league that reached a glorious crescendo with a record-shattering Regal Trophy triumph.

The former New Zealand rugby union wing joined Wigan, "because in a new career, you learn from the best," Tuigamala said. "Wigan resembles the All Blacks a lot, especially in attitude. I've played at the pinnacle in union and can relate to how these guys play, the way they think, their totally professional approach."

Much as the All Blacks, one of the deadliest weapons in Wigan's arsenal is the fear they strike in opponents. It caused Warrington to shrink from their task in a hopeless mismatch at Huddersfield on Saturday. The awesome sight of Tuigamala, in the centre, twice powering over and flicking out passes like a lizard's tongue for tries by Connolly and Offiah will take a long time for Warrington to forget.

A twist to the fear theory was offered by Henry Paul, another New Zealand newcomer, whose first-half jug-

gling act after a kick ahead to furnish Tuigamala with his second try, might be offered as a lesson to the England cricket team. "May be I got it at the fifth attempt, but the biggest thing is not wanting to let anyone down," he said.

Tuigamala and Paul are fully paid subscribers to the

20 points, including a try, scrubbed the rest from the record book.

Over 29 finals in all competitions in the past decade, perhaps only their 48-16 thrashing of St Helens in the 1992 Premiership was achieved with comparable brilliance.

Anyone of half-a-dozen could have won it, but the man-of-the-match award went to Clarke, a dervish in attack and defence. With his hamstring strapped, Edwards opened up Warrington with searching passes rather than kicks. Plain had tackling did not help, nor the indiscipline of five early penalties by which time Wigan had posted 16 points in as many minutes.

Touchdowns by Foster for Warrington in either half, despite a 35-minute period of containment after the interval, merely ignited the Wigan blue touchpaper again. McDermott charged over, as did a rampant Offiah to end a scoring drought in his fourth Regal final.

SCORERS: Warrington: Tries: Foster (2), Goss: Deane, Wigan: Tuigamala (2), Offiah, Connolly, McDermott, Offiah: Goss: Bots (3).

WARRINGTON: J. Davies, M. Foster, A. Barmann, I. Harris, R. Taylor, P. Maloney, G. Macey, J. Tait (capt), S. Davidson, S. Brown, T. Bots (sub), A. Bennett, B. B. McGuire, P. Dargahane, S. B. Sanderson, 18 sub: Davidson, S. B. Bennett.

WIGAN: M. Paul, J. Robinson, V. Tuigamala (capt), P. Anderson, S. G. Connolly, M. Offiah, P. Bots, S. Edwards, K. Stewart (sub), C. Cowie, S. B. Tuigamala, 78, M. Hall, N. Cowie (sub), B. McDermott, 40, D. Bots, M. Connolly, P. Connolly.

Referee: S. Cummings.

Davis fails to show his brightest form

STEVE DAVIS, attempting to win the seventeenth snooker title of his career, ended the first session with a 4-3 lead over John Higgins in their best-of-17-frame final of the Regal Welsh Open at Newport yesterday (Phil Yates writes). Davis, whose 69th tournament win was the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters ten months ago, edged ahead despite failing to reproduce the scoring power of his 6-3 semi-final victory over Peter Ebdon on Saturday.

Davis won the first frame convincingly, but Higgins, who trounced Chris Small 6-1 in the other semi-final, responded with an 89 break in the second and moved 2-1 ahead by winning a scrappy third. Higgins was frozen out for long periods in the fourth frame and his long potting accuracy suffered. Davis won the next three frames, the sixth with a break of 95, but, in the final frame of the afternoon, both players made simple errors — Davis's was the most costly. He missed the black off its spot with the colours at his mercy and so went into the concluding session needing five of the ten frames to secure the £32,500 first prize.

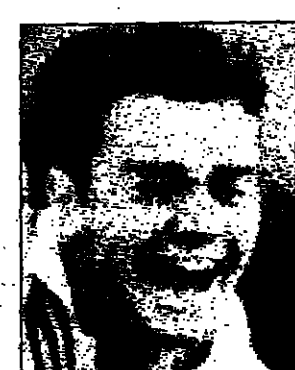
Frail Schwer cut again

BOXING: Billy Schwer, the Luton lightweight, was unable to lift the International Boxing Federation world title in Las Vegas on Saturday because of the frailty of his features (Srikumar Sen writes). By the eighth round, Rafael Ruelas had made such a bloody mess of the Englishman's eyebrows that the referee was forced to call a halt.

The damage was done mainly by the chopping right hand of the champion, though Mickey Duff, Schwer's manager, said some of the rough work inside did not help matters. Schwer was bitterly disappointed because at the time of the stoppage he felt that Ruelas was beginning to weaken.

Cannabis trio recalled

CRICKET: Three players suspended for drug use on the recent cricket tour of South Africa have been recalled to the New Zealand Test team to play the West Indies in Christchurch. Dion Nash, right, Stephen Fleming and Matthew Hart were suspended for a week after admitting to smoking cannabis in South Africa and will receive special practice to prepare them for Test cricket.



Strong return for Brown

HOCKEY: Karen Brown made the most of her international comeback at a rainswept Bisham Abbey to score in two matches against Russia at the weekend. On Saturday, her goal ensured a 1-0 victory, and, in the 2-1 defeat yesterday, she gave England something to fight for (Alix Ramsay writes). Great Britain beat the United States 2-0 yesterday in the first of three matches in San Diego as part of their Olympic preparations.

Law is dismissed

YACHTING: The second round of the America's Cup trials got under way off San Diego yesterday without Chris Law, the British skipper, at the helm of Syd Fischer's Australian entry, Sydney 95 (Barry Pickthall writes). Law was dismissed by Fischer after speaking out about an illegal rudder fitted to the yacht in the first round. Law had questioned the consequences of racing with a new rudder fitted without the knowledge of the official measurers.

Bees rediscover sting

ICE HOCKEY: Bracknell Bees sprang the surprise of the British league season on Saturday, ending Cardiff Devils' eight-game unbeaten streak (Norman de Mesquita writes). Bracknell had lost all five previous league and cup meetings between the teams this season, conceding 67 goals while scoring only 26, but after Ian Cooper had given the Devils a 1-0 lead, Chris Brant equalised and Rick Smith scored three times to secure a 4-1 victory.

Adeniken's record

ATHLETICS: Olapade Adeniken, right, of Nigeria, set the world indoor 100 metres record on Saturday with 10.13sec at an invitational event in Tennessee, breaking the mark of 10.16sec, set by Jürgen Ray, of East Germany, in 1976.

□ Peter Browne, of Great Britain, set a world record for the veterans' 800 metres at an international indoor meeting in Budapest, with 1min 57.32sec.



Rushden face big task

BOWLS: Rushden, from Northamptonshire, founded seven years ago, will play Cyphers, the favourites, in a Denny Cup semi-final at Bedford on March 4 (Gordon Allan writes). The other semi-final is between Teignbridge, the semi-finalists last year, and Preston, of Brighton. Rushden led all the way to beat Torbay and Cyphers triumphed over Stanley, the runners-up for the past two years.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
AUSTRIA					
Kitzbühel	50 100	good; some icy patches	fair	snow	-2 29/1
Schladming	60 110	good	varied	good snow	-1 29/1
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	135 300	good powder	good	fair	-1 29/1
Courchevel	140 260	good	varied	fair	-2 29/1
Flaine	140 260	good powder	good	cloud	1 29/1
Megeve	90 230	good powder	good	cloud	0 29/1
Tignes	205 280	good powder	good	sun	-3 29/1
Val d'Isère	150 320	good powder	good	sun	-3 29/1
ITALY					
Cervinia	80 250	good powder	good	snow	2 29/1
SWITZERLAND					
Mosers	75 180	good powder	good	cloud	4 29/1
Verbier	40 220	good powder	fair	fair	-5 29/1
Villars	80 200	good heavy	good	cloud	3 29/1

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L: lower slopes; U: upper; art: artificial.

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Adelaide Test marked by retirement notices and young Australian's dashing debut century

Gooch on way out as Crawley digs in

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN ADELAIDE

TO EVERY cricket team in almost every match there comes at least one window of opportunity, one chance to recognise and capitalise. Gooch has been, England have regularly created such openings: but in Adelaide, as elsewhere, the critical moments have passed them by.

They were still alive in the fourth Test after the penultimate day, 154 runs on with six wickets down and needing to eat one more session to make it difficult for Australia. But they could, and should, have been in a far more favourable position, one in which victory was more likely than defeat.

In this match, England have done everything too ponderously. They have lacked dynamism and urgency, the mark of eroded confidence. They took too long to make 353 in their first innings and then, by owing their overs in lagardly fashion on Saturday, condemned themselves to an extended final session in which weariness took its inevitable toll. The outcome was a haphazard couple of hours which may be seen to have cost them the match.

The familiarity of the story one good reason why Gra-

ham Gooch has decided that his international career, all 20 years of it, will end when he steps off the field in Perth next week. Simply, Gooch is tired of losing. The other factor, of course, is that his pride will not tolerate the decline in his personal standards.

"My job is to score runs and I haven't been doing that in the quantities I expect of myself," he said, after a touching ovation for a player but unfulfilling 34. "I didn't take this decision lightly. It is an emotional thing, because I have put a lot of time and effort into Test cricket. But I set out to score hundreds and if I don't do it I feel disappointed. Mentally, I can't handle a drop in my standards."

Gooch's timing is neat. He will play his 10th Test match in Perth, giving him the record for England appearances, and yesterday he became the third highest run-scorer, behind Allan Border and Sunil Gavaskar, in Test cricket. In all probability, Mike Gatting will also be bidding farewell in Perth, and then Michael Atherton can resume the course that he identified a year ago, surrounding himself with youth and potential. Such men, however, will need inspiration, and there were phrases this weekend when the England captain appeared to lose his sense of purpose.

True, Atherton's batsmen had let him down on the second day, falling 50 runs short of an acceptable total. True, his seam bowlers had donated the better part of Australia's 81-run start that evening. There are certain events for which no captain can be held responsible.

But things looked up on Saturday when England took five wickets for 154 in the first two sessions. Yet, in the remaining session of the day, they conceded 159 runs and failed to take a single wicket. Atherton's use of Devon Malcolm was perverse, particularly bringing him back into the attack after a long break only ten overs before the scheduled new ball. He also ignored Philip Tufnell throughout the afternoon and, in common with the rest of the team, ignored him again when he appeared to have injured his foot in colliding with the boundary board.

The most culpable aspect of the leadership was the pace of the game, very much the captain's responsibility. England did not achieve the minimum 15 overs in any single hour and were left to bowl 36 after tea. Predictably, the fielding disintegrated along with the bowling.

During this period, Greg Blewett ceased to be a local hero and became a national

one. He spent a nervous Saturday night on 91 not out, but, yesterday, to delirious acclaim from his home-town crowd, he became the first Australian to make a century on his Test debut since Mark Waugh, in the corresponding game four years ago.

Blewett's stand with Alan Healy added 164 for the sixth wicket in only 173 minutes. On Saturday night, as Healy was given the width he relishes and Blewett's voracious pull stroke was innocently fed, they had not looked like getting out. Yesterday, Healy was out to the fourth ball of the first over and Australia lost their last five wickets for 23. Sometimes this game is beyond explanation.

Malcolm took two wickets that he scarcely deserved. Healy and Fleming both being caught down the leg side by

neither was Fleming, sparingly used because of to hamstring trouble. Yet both contributed to another disappointing England batting effort on a pitch that had not deteriorated as anticipated. Indeed, it turned so slowly that Waugh took only the wicket of the hapless Rhodes and now has just four wickets in his last 108 Test overs, a sign that he may be as tired as England.

Whatever persuaded Mark Taylor to give Mark Waugh a spell immediately after lunch, it was an inspired move. Waugh dismissed Atherton leg-before in his first over, then bowled Gatting for nought in his second.

Gooch was batting serenely until being caught behind for the fifth time in a series in which he is averaging only 25, and for all the merits of Graham Thorpe's 83, he was out to an impulsive stroke at a bad time. He has now been out 11 times between 50 and 100 and made only one Test century. He is an asset to the side, but must make more of the platforms he regularly constructs.

John Crawley, by contrast, was in no mood for charity. When he lost Thorpe, Rhodes and Lewis in the space of 40 minutes, the Australians sensed a decisive advantage. But the seventh-wicket pair added 39 before the close, sending the thousands of English supporters back to their hotels with hope, if not belief, in their hearts.

Compiled by Bill Fendall

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Gooch finds the going tough during his innings of 34 in the fourth Test in Adelaide yesterday

LEADING RUN SCORERS IN TESTS

	M	I	NO	HS	Runs	Avg	100	50
A R Border (Aus)	158	265	44	205	11,174	50.56	27	63
S M Gavaskar (Ind)	126	214	16	238*	10,122	51.12	34	45
G A Gooch (Eng)	117	213	6	333	8,889	42.78	20	46
Javed Miandad (Pak)	124	189	21	280*	8,832	52.57	23	43
V V A Richards (W)	121	182	12	291	8,540	53.23	24	45
D Gower (Eng)	117	204	18	215	8,281	44.22	18	39
G Boycott (Eng)	106	183	23	248*	8,114	47.72	22	42
G S A Sobers (W)	93	180	21	365*	8,032	57.78	26	30

Compiled by Bill Fendall

Rhodes, and fired a good one through McIntyre's untutored defence. Waugh had already gone, aiming something cavalier against Fraser, and Blewett had reached his century only after a neurotic spell in which he persistently charged at Fraser and hooked at anything short from Malcolm.

When the ninth wicket fell, Blewett began to walk off, knowing — as the crowd did

not — that Craig McDermott had been taken to hospital for stomach X-rays after complaining of cramps. It was a precautionary measure, with his illness of 1993 in mind, but McDermott, cleared of immediate anxiety, had arrived back at the ground just in time to strap on pads and avoid being timed out.

Understandably, he was not at full pace with the ball, and

putting themselves into a winning position today seem to be through the pace of Glen Chapple and Dominic Cork. The second new ball is available after only five overs, and late yesterday both men achieved some reverse swing with a ball 70 overs old.

Phil Neale, the England manager, knows that India's comeback has asked new questions about the resolve of his young side, which has played so well on tour to date and leads the three-match series 1-0 after a four-wicket victory in Bangalore.

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Cup-tie lacks visionary touch from most continental of Englishmen

Le Tissier fails to find usual channel

Simon Barnes sees the mercurial Southampton playmaker in subdued mood during the 1-1 draw with Luton Town

"No, I am not Eric Cantona, nor was I meant to be... Lines, of course, from *The Lovesong of M. Le Tissier*."

A vignette from Saturday at Kenilworth Road. Thomas, in the Luton Town defence, caught Le Tissier with a biff in the face and charged upfield with the ball. Le Tissier set off in pursuit, chased him for 30 yards and then did absolutely nothing.

Thomas got his pass away when Le Tissier was too far off to make contact with the ball. Cantona, whose response to what American football terms "personal fouls" is more (or perhaps less) complex, might have put stud to calf, for foul without vendetta appears to be unthinkable for Cantona.

But Le Tissier bided his time, no doubt pondering revenge through goalscoring



rather than maiming. He was still biding it at the final whistle, as Southampton drew 1-1 with Luton the fourth round of the FA Cup.

There is the joke about the footballer who dies and goes to heaven, enjoys ecstatic reunions with Billy Wright and Bobby Moore, and then asks St Peter about the fellow with the upturned collar. "Oh, that's just God. Keeps thinking he's Eric Cantona."

Nobody will make such a joke about Le Tissier. The two most gifted players in English football can both chip with gasp-making precision, orchestrate games with bewildering clarity of vision, but in their natures they are not half a channel apart, but an ocean and more.

Cantona personalised his team uniform by turning up the collar. If Le Tissier, eyes thought about personalising his, he would install pockets in his shorts, so that he could lurk about with his hands in them. Unless he happens to be doing something magical with a football, you cannot pick him out with a casual glance.

Cantona carries himself with his shoulder blades touching and his chin 45 degrees above the horizontal. Le Tissier mostly has his shoulders bowed, his chin 45 degrees below. It is all a matter of the way these things take a player. Cantona's gifts fill him with hauteur, if not



Le Tissier endeavours to get to grips with Oakes, of Luton Town, in the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Kenilworth Road

hubris. Le Tissier's own gifts fill him with diffidence, even embarrassment.

They share, apart from their colossal gifts for transforming football matches, the ability to disappear from them. Cantona's long had the ability to rise to the small occasion, to impose himself with impossible glory at a bumper-league fixture, to vanish without trace at a Wembley final.

The hurliness and burlesque of a traditional cup-tie does not necessarily find him at his best. That was certainly the case with Le Tissier on Saturday. We waited for the moment when Le Tissier would show us the difference between commitment and genius, and that moment never came. Sometimes it does not; that is the way with Le Tissier, with Cantona, with every play-

er that has gifts beyond the ordinary.

Le Tissier was carrying an injury, a calf strain has been bothering him for a couple of weeks. And Luton, especially in the first half, gave us a lesson in cup-tie aspirations, with football hectic, unrefined, committed. They showed us everything that foreigners love in English football.

Mind you, there was a moment when, in one long and beautiful pass, like a ball thrown deep by a quarterback, when Le Tissier showed us what the English love in continental football, and in the unEnglish gifts of such as Cantona and himself.

Nothing came of it. It was Luton's half, but the goal failed to come. Southampton re-emerged with their ears burning from a managerial

trade and scored a few minutes later. Heaney discovered an open door on the Luton right again, he charged through it and pulled the ball back for Shipperley to touch home.

A bizarre penalty incident complicated the game. The

Full results and league tables ... Page 28

referee gave a penalty for what seemed like inadvertent handball by Benali, and Telfer hit it sweetly enough. But Grobbelaar performed one of his mongoose springs to biff it away.

That seemed to be that, but Luton kept on pressing, with Marshall, wide on the right,

always the danger. With ten minutes to go, he served a copy of Southampton's goal; his pull-back put away by Biggins.

In the press room, journeurs come and go, getting quotes from Bally, Heat and Co.

Le Tissier agreed with both managers in thinking it was a good game. Seeing him with everyday clothes on, I recognised him at last. He is Ford Prefect of *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, edited from his home on a small planet somewhere in the vicinity of Betelgeuse and who, skipping on preparatory research for his trip to Earth, chose the name "Ford Prefect" as being nicely inconspicuous.

His features were striking but not conspicuously handsome. His air was wary and gingerish and brushed back

from his temples. His skin seemed to be pulled backwards from the nose. There was something very slightly odd about him, but it was difficult to say what. Perhaps it was that his eyes didn't blink often enough.

The replay is on February 8; perhaps Le Tissier's calf will be better by then. It would be nice to see what he can do at Wembley; he seems destined, alas, to be one of the great not quite men of English football. "I grow old, I grow old, I shall wear the collar of my shirt untorn..."

LUTON TOWN (3-2-2): J. Schmeiser — M. Johnson, T. Paine, M. Thomas — D. Marshall, P. Telfer, G. Waddock, D. Pearce, C. Gosses — W. Rogers, K. Dixon (sub: M. Williams, 68min). SOUTHAMPTON (3-1-1): B. Grobbelaar — R. Heaney, J. Marshall, F. Benali — J. Venn, N. Heaney, J. Marshall, N. Macdonald, S. Chatter (sub: D. Hughes, 73) — M. Le Tissier — N. Shipperley. Referee: G. Ashby.

United's new generation lifts spirits at Old Trafford

Manchester United 5
Wrexham 2

By PETER BALL

THE brooding presence of the king in exile hung over Old Trafford on Saturday, but it did not affect the Manchester United players. While chants of "Ooh, Aah, Cantona," from all sides of the ground punctuated the action, United showed that there is life without the Frenchman.

That some United supporters should express solidarity with their hero was only to be expected. That Wrexham's large contingent should join in suggested that there is a wider groundswell of sympathy for the errant Gaul.

Afterwards, the Wrexham players revealed similar sentiments. "Everybody's very sad he wasn't playing," Andy Marriott, the Wrexham goalkeeper who made his debut for Nottingham Forest against United three years ago, said. "Meeting them at full strength would have been better, even if it meant they might have scored eight rather than five. He is too great a talent to be lost to the game."

But then it was an unusual FA Cup fourth-round game in every way, as Wrexham eschewed the normal approach of lower division teams and took United on at pure football. "That's the way I want my teams to play," Brian Flynn, the manager, said.

This approach brought Wrexham their early moment of glory. Durkan, the scorer of the first goal against Ipswich Town in the third round, repeated the feat in the ninth minute after an exchange with Owen. Only three outstanding saves by Schmeiser prevented further celebrations as Owen and Hughes cleverly worked openings.

But, inevitably, United began to cause Wrexham huge problems. The Welsh team's dreams of glory lasted just nine minutes, then Irwin scored with a blistering drive.

No Cantona, no Hughes, and, for cup-ties, no Cole either, but on Saturday it hardly mattered as Giggs and Sharpe ran defenders ragged and McClair provided openings with some first time passes that even Cantona would have admired. United might have doubled their goal total but for Marriott's resistance.

"They are a bit sharper now than when I first played against them; up front, they are so clinical, the finishing was wonderful," Marriott said. "When you can put your hand on your heart and say 'I couldn't have done anything

about the goals' when you've still conceded five of them, that says something about their finishing."

The young players who picked up the baton for United "didn't look like youngsters at all, they looked like seasoned professionals," Marriott said.

Phillip, the younger of the Neville brothers and captain of the youth team, had an outstanding debut, setting up Giggs for the second goal after a one-two with Scholes, and playing with marked composure.

"He settled right into the side," Gary Pallister said.

"He's just as good as his brother. For a lad of that age to show that maturity was fantastic." In the Cantona role, Scholes was not far behind. Replacing United's inspiration is a huge burden to put on young shoulders, but the stocky redhead just might be strong enough to carry it.

"The lads were saying afterwards how much stronger he is than he looks," Marriott said. "Once he is on the ball, he is so tough to get off it, and he brings other people into



Scholes: fine prospect

the game wonderfully well." Scholes was a key figure in the second goal and in the moves which produced McClair's goal from a corner and Irwin's second, from the spot after Humes brought down Ince. "He is an intelligent player, he's always aware of what's going on around him," Pallister said. "His vision is superb, his touch and awareness fantastic. He's got that little bit of extra vision, extra know-how. He's a super little prospect."

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-2-4): P. Schmeiser — D. Wain, D. May, G. Pallister, P. Neville — R. Keane (sub: A. Kanchelskis, 68min), P. Ince, R. Gage, P. Scholes, B. McClair (sub: D. Beardsley, 70), L. Sharpe. WREXHAM (4-4-2): A. Marriott — B. Jones, B. Hurley, A. Humes, P. Hardy — K. Durkan, G. Owen, B. Hughes (sub: J. Phillips, 61), S. Connolly (sub: J. Jones, 72) — G. Bennett, S. Watkin. Referee: M. Bodenham.

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Leeds take aerial route to uncharted territory

Leeds United 3
Oldham Athletic 2

By SIMON WILDS

AN APOLOGY. In recent weeks, members of the media may have given the impression that Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, did not know his job. They may have suggested that he had, within three years, reduced a championship-winning team to one that could not find the net and that, as a result, his own position was in jeopardy.

They may also have implied that, even when he attempted to remedy the situation by signing a proven

goalscorer from overseas, he failed to anticipate the work-permit problems that this caused.

We now accept that these allegations are unfounded and that Mr Wilkinson is, in fact, a manager of the highest calibre. Not only has Anthony Yeboah, the Ghana international, inspired Leeds to score seven goals in two matches while he himself sat on the substitutes' bench, but also Mr Wilkinson must be congratulated on riding himself, two years ago — and at a price of £1.2 million — of that ticking bomb, Mr Eric Cantona, who exploded in the hands of Mr Alex Ferguson last week.

On Saturday, moreover, he took Leeds into the fifth round of the FA

Cup for the first time since 1987, proof — as if proof were needed — that he is the man for the job. We apologise for any embarrassment caused.

That is this week's apology. However, if Wilkinson does not want another sort to appear after the fifth round, he must work on calming the nerves of his players, some of whom have never experienced a decent cup run in their lives. Leeds showed enough touches of class in defeating Oldham Athletic at Elland Road Saturday that they could have won by a handful, and enough anxiety attacks to have thrown it all away.

They held most of the aces. They possessed a formidable aerial advantage, which was responsible for all the

their goals. The first, by White, came via the heads of Deane and Masinga. The second, by Palmer, came from a nod-on by Masinga, and the third, an immediate response, in the 57th minute, to Oldham's first goal by Halle, saw Masinga himself drive home from point-blank range White's exquisite cross from the right. Less impressively, two minutes after that, Palmer jumped high to nudge Brennan's corner into his own net.

LEEDS UNITED (4-2-2): J. Lukic — G. Kelly, D. Whelan, J. Pennington, N. Worthington — D. White, G. Palmer, M. Hinde, G. Speed — B. Deane, P. Mashinga (sub: A. Yeboah, 68min). OLDHAM ATHLETIC (4-4-2): P. Gerrard — G. Mahon (sub: R. Holden, 58), R. Hughes, S. Richmond, M. Patten — G. Halle, N. Henry, L. Richardson, M. Brennan — A. Rennie (sub: D. Beardsley, 74), N. Bangor. Referee: S. Lodge.

Kitson treble proves worthy of Cole's glowing legacy

Newcastle United 3
Swansea City 0

By IVO TENNANT

THE imminent issue of *Black and White*, the official Newcastle United magazine, carries on its cover a doleful picture of Kevin Keegan and his concluding utterance on his decision to sell Andy Cole to Manchester United.

"There's a bullet with my name on it if I've got it wrong," he said.

Given the reminder last week of just how nasty football crowds still can be, this was perhaps not the cleverest remark to make.

For the time being, however, there is evidence to suggest that the Newcastle manager has got everything right. No forward, including Cole, could have snaffled three goals better than Kitson did in this FA Cup fourth-round tie on Saturday.

three defenders, to suggest that he will prove to be undervalued at £1 million.

The run in question by Gillespie, 19, was inside the Swansea penalty area and resulted in a fine, parried save by Freestone. For all that, this was the one period of the tie when Swansea played sufficiently measured football to suggest that they could take Newcastle back to Vetch Field. Alas for them, they missed an open goal in the first minute, Hayes shooting tamely at Srnicek.

Once Newcastle had scored their first goal, Kitson glancing Beardsley's cross beyond Freestone three minutes before half-time, there was a predictable ability about the play.

Kitson's second goal was headed adroitly into a corner from Hotter's cross a minute into the second half, and his hat-trick was completed when he delicately lobbed over Freestone. Kitson had scored just five goals for Newcastle hitherto this season. What was it they were saying about his added responsibilities?

Portsmouth take too long to find appropriate answer

Portsmouth 0
Leicester City 1

By ALYSON RUDD

PLAYING football ought to be like learning to drive a car. After the practical training, there should be a question and answer session. Unless a player can give correct replies to such posers as "what constitutes a safe distance between you and a supporter of the opposing team?", he should not be allowed to turn professional.

The advantages of such a test became clear during the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Fratton Park on Saturday. If only the Portsmouth team had brushed up on questions such as: "In the event of the pitch being a mess of mud and puddles, do you (a) play your normal game, or (b) adapt your passing to suit the conditions?" Portsmouth chose (a) and it cost them the tie.

After 30 minutes, Gittens was completely fooled by the predictably unpredictable path of the ball and left Thompson with a free run on goal. In desperation, Gittens mauled him to the ground and was duly sent off.

Undeterred, Portsmouth plugged

away at their neat passing game and, a minute before the interval, Russell attempted to gently slide the ball out of defence. It travelled like a lump of lard and fell for Philpott, who splashed forward and crossed to Roberts at the far post who put Leicester ahead.

During the second half, Portsmouth began to get the hang of things, particularly Daniel, who had enormous fun. But, after 70 minutes, Knight, their long-serving goalkeeper, was dismissed for handling Draper's shot just outside the area. Given the conditions, this was a cruel decision.

Even so, by hurling long balls over the Leicester defence, Portsmouth had their best spell of the game, but McLoughlin, with a chance to force a replay, shot wide. Leicester, meanwhile, have to consider whether a 1-0 win in such circumstances is really good enough — but then, few really believe in Leicester's Premiership credentials.

PORTSMOUTH (5-2-2): A. Knight — R. Patrick, J. Salinas, L. Russell, G. Gurney, R. Daniel — B. Kristiansen (sub: J. Paine, 58min), L. McGarry (sub: A. McLoughlin, 83) — P. Paudyal, D. Powell — G. Croxall (sub: A. Sheehan, 72).

LEICESTER CITY (4-4-2): K. Poole — R. Smith, C. Hill, N. Mohan, M. Whitow — S. Croxson, M. Dropp, S. Thompson, L. Philpott — I. Roberts, M. Robins. Referee: D. Gallagher.

THE TIMES

Win two tickets to watch England play Uruguay

The magic of South American football comes to Wembley in March when the legendary Uruguay team plays a rare visit to Britain.

Times readers can win one of three pairs of tickets to the friendly match against Terry Venables' new-look England team by answering the questions below.

Former World Cup winners, Uruguay are feared and respected by opponents. They play with style and verve and are expected to give England a severe test of skill and stamina on March 29.

To enter the competition, send you answers together with your name, address and daytime phone number to: The Times Uruguay Tickets Competition, PO Box 6884, London E2 8SS.

Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. The winners will be the first three correct answers selected at random from all entries received by the closing date, Monday February 6, 1995.

Question 1: Which person in the current England set-up has played for England at every level?

Question 2: What was the score when England played Uruguay at Wembley in the 1966 World Cup?

Question 3: How many times have Leicester won the World Cup?



Reacquaintance with Liverpool gives poignant reminder of Lancashire rivals' great tradition

Burnley put on revival of former glory days

Burnley 0
Liverpool 0

By DAVID MITLER

THE pages of history were turned back at Turf Moor, to the time 30 years ago when Burnley could give Liverpool, and others, a lesson or two. They did so now in as fine a cup-tie as you could wish to see, after which Burnley still live to battle for a place in the FA Cup fifth round.

Nowadays, there may be no Adamson, McIlroy and Pilkington, no Angus, McNeil, Lockhead or Harris, but there survives the tradition and the will to play with style. Back in the early Sixties, only Tottenham Hotspur could upstage Burnley for elegance, and the memory of those days still lingers round local heartlands.

The style, and the feeling of local identity that is the emotional fuel of public support, that used to bring people swarming out of the neat rows of 19th century streets,



from over the hills and along the Ribbles Valley did so again now, producing the fifth-largest attendance of the round—20,551—and Turf Moor's largest of the season by almost 3,000.

They were rewarded by seeing a Burnley side that lies uncomfortably close to relegation from the Endcliffe Insurance League first division give Liverpool a fright and a fight. I hear Liverpool no ill-will, but as the match gathered towards a rousing, but inconclusive climax, I longed for the rub of the green to turn Burnley's way. They had done more than enough to deserve it.

In the last few anxious minutes, Mullin, taking a pass from Saville, had hooked a low shot across the face of James, and, from a corner forced by the rugged substitute McMinn, Davis, the Burnley central defender and captain, had headed sharply into James's arms.

Yet, back at the other end, Russell, deputising in goal for the suspended Beresford, had flung himself high to his right to cut out the cross that might have brought Liverpool victory in the last move of the match.

By this time, the bride-in-off-the-shoulder pink organza, who must have been persuaded by her groom that loyalty to the claret cause took priority over departure on their honeymoon, had won her case for a flight to warmer surroundings. She missed some fun.

More was the pity that, on such an afternoon of honour

and drama, Jimmy Mullin, the Burnley manager, should behave afterwards like a bad-tempered station manager whose points have jammed and gratuitously insult a malleable press, co-operatively waiting in freezing conditions to sing his praises. At moments such as this, a great game helps dig its own grave, but fortunately Mullin's team had done a lot better than he did now.

Robinson, formerly with Bristol City and Burnley's most expensive signing, continually worried Babb on Liverpool's left side and sometimes Ruddock through the middle. He also occasionally switched to the left flank. It was from here, in the twelfth minute, that Robinson cut loose past Jones to send a searing drive just over the bar. Liverpool had advance warning that there was to be no easy repeat of their Coca-Cola Cup victory against the same opposition (they won 6-1 on aggregate).

It was, indeed, difficult to understand how a Burnley team that went unbeaten through October and November should recently have slumped into such an alarming decline, with five defeats in their last six league matches. They were mostly a match for Liverpool's sophistication.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, will reflect disappointedly on an insipid performance by Redknapp and Barnes in midfield.

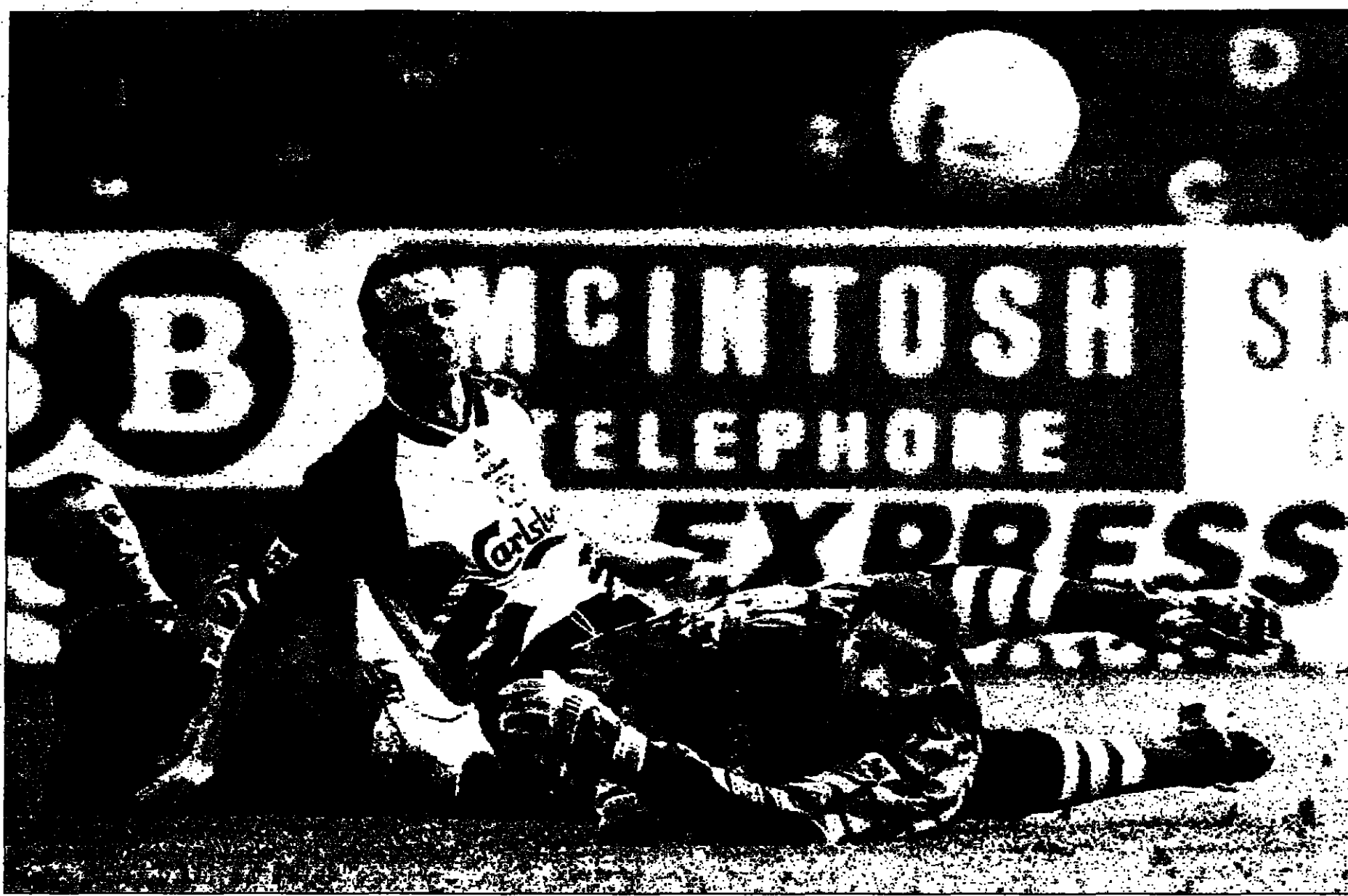
Hoyle did such a comprehensive insulation job just in front of Davis and Winstanley in the centre of defence that Rush and Fowler were at times hard pressed to keep warm, never mind to test the goalkeeper.

Liverpool's main hope stemmed, as so often this season, from McManaman. After a quarter of an hour, he twice almost had the beating of Russell and soon afterwards, taking a return pass from Fowler, had Russell desperately diving at his feet.

In the quarter of an hour before half-time, Burnley thrived. Ruddock was forced to head behind from Mullin, Robinson sent a huge volley, from a cross by Mullin, cross, just wide and, from a free kick just outside the penalty area Robinson and was booked.

Ruddock fired a free kick that sailed the right post. The match, see-sawed throughout the second half. Matteo, deputising for the suspended Bjornebye at left back, went close; at the other end, Saville's chip over James, caught off his line, was scrambled away for a corner. Late in the day, Rush twice threatened, but Liverpool will have been thankful for ultimate escape.

BURNLEY (4-3-3): W. Russell — G. Parkinson (Sub: T. McIlroy, F. Harris, S. Davis, M. Winstanley, D. Evans — A. Barnes, J. Hoyle, A. Harper — I. Robinson, J. Babb, A. McMinn, D. Jones, J. Scallan, N. Ruddock, P. Babb — R. Jones, S. Parkinson, J. Redknapp, J. Barnes, D. Matteo — R. Fowler, F. Harris, R. McManaman, K. Morton.



Mullin, the Burnley forward, left, beats the diving James during the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Turf Moor but his shot went wide. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird

Sleeping giant roused by Cup adventure

SOME of the supporters who arrived early at Turf Moor on Saturday buried their heads in a flimsy new fanzine called *Who Are All the Pies*. The words are a favourite chant of Burnley followers, aimed lightly at portly policemen and opposition players from the Paul Gascoigne school of dietary discipline. In this part of Lancashire, they carry a heavier significance, too.

Up in the snow-covered hills, where the moors turn into the Pennines and Yorkshire is only five miles to the east, Burnley are struggling to blot out harsh reality. Jack Walker has eaten all the pies, Blackburn Rovers, their bitter rivals, are top of the FA Carling Premiership, and despite their lower-division successes of recent years, Burnley are fighting for the crumbs.

They are better off than they were eight years ago, of course, when they escaped relegation from the Football League on the last day of the season. After two promotions in three years, their supporters have found a new sense of pride. But their position, third from bottom of the Endcliffe Insurance League first division, still mocks their history; the two championships and the FA Cup win in 1913-14.

In some ways, the visit of Liverpool, whom they beat in that final 80 years ago, made it all worse, not better. Not because Burnley were outplayed on Saturday — they were unfortunate not to win — but because their arrival brought with it a wave of patronising sympathy and a realisation of the gulf in class between teams from opposite ends of the old county and the

new football order, one packed with internationals, the other with unknowns.

Burnley, you see, are not really interested in being giant-killers. That is for teams like Hereford United, Colchester United and Wrexham. Some teams will never be big no matter how high they rise or what scalps they take, some will never be minnows no matter how far they fall. Burnley come in the second category. They are giants.



'In other towns, people wear shirts from a range of clubs. Here, you see only Burnley shirts'

— Adrian Heath

They do not want laps on the back for scoreless draws with the big boys.

The *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* still brought out a special 24-page supplement to mark the occasion, and the

Oliver Holt reports on continuing attempts to put Turf Moor back on the footballing map

club went to great lengths to get the game played in dreadful conditions. But attempts to characterise the FA Cup fourth-round tie as David v Goliath rankled. "It's not exactly Small Town USA welcomes the President, you know," Roy Wright, a Burnley sports journalist exiled to Liverpool, said.

The search for a Cup upset was just a veneer in Burnley on Saturday. The fascination inherent in this tie was in a club searching for its identity. Liverpool know now how disconcerting it is to slip from the perch even for a short time when you have been used to such supremacy. Burnley's disorientation, their fall from grace, has lasted for two decades.

They fell with such speed that they provided English football with a unique phenomenon. "I reckon I must be the only player in history to have played for the same club while they were top of the first division and bottom of the fourth," Leighton James, their former left winger, said.

James, whose £300,000 transfer to Derby County in 1975 is still a club record, played there in three spells between 1968 and 1990. He was one of the men who dragged it back from the brink on May 9, 1987, when they had to beat Leyton Orient to have any chance of avoiding relegation to the GM Vauxhall Conference.

"To see such desperate times at a club you had been associated with for so long

was something you could not really share with the newer players," he said. "They would not have any idea of the significance of what was happening. They would not have known the days when big games against Manchester United and Liverpool were the norm, not just some kind of circus attraction."

They beat Leyton Orient 2-1 and an appearance at Wembley in the Sherpa Van Trophy final followed the year after. Then there was promotion from the old fourth division, and, last season, they beat Stockport County in the second-division play-off final at Wembley. "Back where we belong," posters say in the club shop.

The first division today, though, is not the one Burnley conquered in 1960 and last graced in 1976. When they won the title, they had players like Jimmy McIlroy, and when James was in the team in the Seventies, there was Ralph Coates and Steve Kindon.

Some blame the abolition of the maximum wage in 1960 for the demise of the great Lancashire town clubs, Preston North End, Blackpool, Blackburn and Burnley, as the big-city teams reaped the rewards of bigger catchment areas. Whatever the reasons, Bob Lord, the then chairman, sold the club's best players to make ends meet, to pay for ground improvements. Embittered supporters nicknamed one new development the Martin Dobson stand

after another sale and the club slid steadily towards the basement.

Now, when you approach Burnley from the south, negotiating the network of motorways circling Manchester, it is easy to share the town's confusion. On one side of the ridge along which the road travels, Accrington, that byword for football failure, falls away below. On the other, Blackburn, home of the revitalised Rovers, appears.



'I played for Burnley when the club was top of the first division and bottom of the fourth'

— Leighton James

Burnley is still hidden. "We are on the way back now," Jimmy Mullin, who has been the Burnley manager since 1991, said. He sat in the directors' room at a table for ten with a couple of pictures of

the ground staring down at him from the walls. "We have had two promotions in three seasons and it won't be long until we are knocking on the door to get back into the Premier League," he said.

"This has been one of the top clubs in the country. There is a tremendous sense of history embedded in it. They have won the FA Cup, they have won championships, have had players capped for their countries. In terms of tradition, this club is as big as anything in the league and it has been out of the headlines for too long."

"Liverpool is a big game but not as important as when we beat York to clinch promotion from the fourth division or Stockport County in the play-offs last year. Those were more important in the history of Burnley Football Club. They are the biggest games we have had since I have been manager."

"But more and more is expected of us and it puts extra pressure on us. It does not happen overnight, but you can sense the expectation increasing with every game we play. The success the fans have had here over the last three seasons has only whetted their appetite."

There is pride in Burnley again. The club may still be searching for its lost inheritance, but the town of dark satanic mills deserted by King Cotton is sticking firm as the quest continues. "In other towns and cities, you see people wearing shirts from a range of football clubs," Adrian Heath, their veteran midfielder player, said. "In Burnley, you see only Burnley shirts."

Guest welcome withdrawn

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

A CALL to ban guest athletes from international matches will be made by Verona Elder, the Great Britain team manager, after an incident on Saturday which, in only slightly different circumstances, might have cost her men's squad its victory over Russia in the McDonald's indoor match at Birmingham.

As the closely-fought fixture moved towards its climax, the 800 metres degenerated into a shambles because of the inclusion of a guest runner.

Martin Steele, not selected but invited as a fifth competitor in the two-a-side match, knocked Craig Winrow off the track on the last bend. Winrow failed to finish and therefore added nothing to Britain's score.

As it turned out, it did not matter because Britain won by eight points, 72-64, but had, for example, Ian Grime not won the 1,500 metres unexpectedly, or had Barrington Williams not triumphed in the long jump at the age of 39, Britain would have been in urgent need of points from Winrow.

"I feel guest runners should not be allowed and we are going to have to think very

seriously about it," Elder said. "The people in there have earned their British team place and they should not have to worry about a guest."

McKean, who gave a bold front-running performance to win in 1m 50.04sec, said that guests can detract from a scoring athlete's concentration on the match opposition. "It makes it very difficult," McKean said. "You are trying not to think about racing Martin because he does not count." Britain's other winners were Colin Jackson, in

Results from Birmingham..... Page 32

the 60 metres and 60 metres hurdles, John Regis, in the 200 metres, and Brendan Reilly, in the high jump. Regis intends to compete in the world indoor championships in Barcelona in March.

Although the home women's team lost 78-62, there were indications that their status as the poor relations of British athletics is firmly in the past. They won six events, Ashia Hansen, Kate Staples and

Jacqui Ageypong setting British records and Ann Griffiths defeating Yekaterina Podkopayeva, the world indoor champion, to win the 1,500 metres.

It was inevitable that there would be more interest in Staples than in Hansen. The pole vault is more eye-catching and Staples, as *Zodiac in Gladiators*, is a well-known television face. The stadium commentary covered Staples's every move towards her 3.75 metres clearance, while Hansen's 14.17 metres triple jump, which ranks her tenth in the world, was not announced until some time after the distance had been measured.

Hansen began in athletics as a middle-distance runner, then tried sprinting, high jump and long jump before experimenting with the triple jump. "It started out as a laugh," Hansen said. Now she is serious opposition for the best in the world.

Ageypong ran 8.05sec for the 60 metres hurdles and said she had been helped by warm-weather training abroad. Griffiths has been content with snowy Wythenshawe. "I am happy training at home," Griffiths said.

Jackson lights way for the luminaries

Patricia Davies confesses that her visit to an indoor athletics meeting was not an onerous assignment, even if locating the car proved to be

that everyone attending would be all lycra-clad, but the queue for the pre-booked tickets was small and not that beautifully formed. Two real athletes — their track suits told us that — squeezed past and then had to squeeze out again. It was also reassuring to know that even the competitors had not quite found their bearings.

My ticket, booked over the telephone, was there. It cost £14.30 and that included a booking fee of £1.30, which

seemed a bit steep, but I did get a programme without having to fork out the £2.50. There was no crush. The stadium holds 8,000 for the athletics, but was no more than half full. The atmosphere was muted rather than electric and there was a general air of amenability.

There were a fair number of children milling around. My seat was high up, in what turned out to be the Russian section, and at first glance the

average age seemed to be about ten. Several of them wielded an enormous Russian flag with great enthusiasm.

Talking of flags, a lovely touch was the face-painting station in the foyer. It was a free service and by the end there was hardly a child without a Union Jack on its face. Not such a light touch as the Russians were obviously made, for some of my neighbours started appearing with red, blue and white stripes in Russian order.

I missed the first event, the women's shot, but even the opening ceremony came afterwards. Judy Oakes is still going, but the Russians were first and second, as were their male shot-putters, whose grunts were disconcerting enough to those of us up in the gods but amused the Russian spectators so much they attempted a few imitations. Goodness knows how the other athletes kept concentrating.

In a compact area, there were jumpers jumping,

putters putting, vaulters vaulting and runners running, sometimes all at once. Fortunately, there was a video screen to catch the action that you missed first time round. Hordes of blazered boys in white trousers or skirts kept tabs on lengths, heights, speeds, and the announcer did his best to keep us up with what was happening.

Oh, you know those close-ups on television of athletes looking all focused and concentrated? They are not taken with a zoom lens. The cameramen are sometimes nearly on top of the athletes. Kate Staples, the gladiator with pole vaulting pretensions, got a lot of this treatment, but seemed not to notice — a true performer.

More important, Jackson, the main attraction, won twice, the 100 metres was immaculately clean, and the food was edible enough.

I was not tempted to buy any of the cut-price spikes, leggings, or sweatshirts, but some of the Russian team were deep in negotiation; so, presumably, it was the right stuff. The seats are a tight fit for the broad in the beam (the shot putters stood), but I will be going again — if I can remember where I left the car.

WHAT IT COSTS	
Admission (incl. £1.30 booking fee and programme)	£14.30
Food & Drink	£2.50
Clubhouse	£8.00
80p chips	70p tea
Programme	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Bolton	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Preston	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Blackpool	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Burnley	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Blackburn	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Bury	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Rochdale	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Salford	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from St Helens	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Wigan	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Bolton	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Preston	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Blackpool	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Burnley	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Blackburn	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Bury	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Rochdale	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Salford	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from St Helens	£2.50
24 hrs return trip from Wigan	£2.50

Weld's hurdler moves to forefront of Champion Hurdle betting Fortune And Fame returns in style

FROM RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT
AT FAIRYHOUSE

A SENSE of déjà vu was prompted here yesterday when Fortune And Fame won the AIG (Europe) Irish Champion Hurdle for the second successive year and again thrust himself to the forefront of the betting for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham in six weeks' time.

After his victory in the race 12 months ago, Dermot Weld's talented but accident-prone performer was promoted to clear favourite for the hurdler's race before being withdrawn on the eve of the race after hurting a hock in a freak stable accident.

The reaction to Fortune And Fame's smooth success yesterday was mixed. Ladbrokes had no hesitation in elevating the eight-year-old to joint 4-1



Fortune And Fame, left, takes the last flight together with Aries Girl before going on to complete a smooth success at Fairyhouse

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HAWWAM
(2.00 Southwell)
Next best: Smaat
(4.30 Southwell)

favouritism with Relkeel. Other bookmakers were more cautious with Corals going 5-1, while William Hill and Sporting Index both went 6-1.

Despite not having raced since last April, the 2-1 on favourite theoretically had a simple task against four rivals, two of whom were complete no-hopers. Nevertheless, the style of his victory impressed and he looks sure to improve considerably between now and March 14.

Always travelling comfortably as Clifton Fog set a steady pace, he jumped economically and without a hint of a mistake. Turning for home Mark Dwyer eased Fortune And Fame closer to the lead and touched down over the final flight ahead of his main rival, Aries Girl, unbeaten in three novice races this season. After going clear he idled over the final 100

yards and won by a length and a half.

Weld will see how Fortune And Fame comes out of yesterday's race before deciding whether to go straight to Cheltenham or give him one more run. If he opts for a further race it could be the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton on February 23 rather than the Red Mills Trial Hurdle at Gowran Park on February 19 when he would clash with Danoli.

"He had a good blow today and needed the run. We are very pleased with him. He may go straight to Cheltenham but I will decide when I see how much weight he has lost and how he has come out of the race. He was 13 kilos above his optimum racing weight today," Weld said.

glowing praise from Ireland's top trainer.

However, jockey arrangements for the Champion Hurdle will not be decided until Weld has spoken to Michael Smurfit, owner of the horse and sponsor of the hurdler's crown. Richard Dunwoody, whose 30-day suspension cost him yesterday's ride, remains in the wings.

Tom Foley, the trainer of Danoli, watched yesterday's race and commented: "He gave me a good feel between the second and last flight when I got him racing and he quickened for 100 yards after the last. Once he had done that he just

much as Relkeel. Danoli could not be better and I am going to Cheltenham with the same kind of confidence as last year.

I went there hopeful last year and if we get there again we have as good a chance as anything in the race."

Dwyer, now riding as a freelance, won the Champion Hurdle with Fluke Dove last year. He was clearly impressed by Fortune And Fame and commented: "He gave me a good feel between the second and last flight when I got him racing and he quickened for 100 yards after the last. Once he had done that he just

eased up a bit. He jumped particularly well."

The victory ended a day of mixed fortunes for Dwyer. He received a two-day ban for using the whip with excessive frequency on Nun's Island in the Waterford Crystal Hurdle and the suspension could prevent him riding Gales Cavalier, favourite for the Arke Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, on Wednesday week.

However, Dwyer quickly bounced back to win the Pierce Leopardstown Chase on Sullane River.

Fields drop in winter game of discontent

I do not wish to appear unduly alarmist, but did the events, or rather the non-events, of last week signal the beginning of the end for National Hunt racing in Britain? By the year 2005 can we expect the Cheltenham Festival to be reduced to one day while Wolverhampton or Kempton holds the first four-day winter spectacular — with ten all-weather Flat races staged under floodlights each evening?

The announcement last Monday that only 24 horses in Britain and Ireland have been entered for the Smurfit Champion Hurdle — a reduction of more than 40 per cent compared to the previous ten years — was followed 48 hours later by the smallest Grand National entry for more than a decade.

The sharp reduction in potential runners for two of National Hunt's showpiece events is stunning confirmation that the winter game is sliding towards crisis point. Those who pretend otherwise are living in cloud cuckoo land.

Small fields, particularly in the better races, have been the norm this season and it does not take an Einstein to work out why. Following a 20 per cent fall in the number of jump horses in training since 1989, decent hurdlers and chasers are now very thin on the ground — hence the decision by the British Horseracing Board (BHB) to remove 78 chases from the 1995 race programme.

Considered by itself, the trend is worrying. When weighed alongside the unquenchable demand for more all-weather Flat racing in the winter, it is potentially catastrophic.

Just ten years after a Jockey Club and Levy Board working party began to look at the possibility of staging dirt racing in Britain, it is now thriving and, unlike jump racing, has more runners than it can cope with. In 1994 the surplus led to 3,500 eliminations — double the previous year's tally.

The success of all-weather racing is hardly surprising. Owners have the opportunity to win excellent prize-money with moderate horses which are often not good enough to win during the turf flat season. These are the very animals which would have been switched to hurdling not so long ago.

Jockeys, some of whom would struggle to make a living during the summer, have an extra source of income while Flat trainers can keep their yards ticking over during the winter months. For some, the all-weather provides a lifeline which keeps them in business. When bad weather

decimates jump racing during the winter, as it did last week, large and competitive fields at Lingfield, Southwell and Wolverhampton keep the betting shop tills ticking over.

Given the rosy picture, it will be surprising if the all-weather track review group, set up by the BHB to examine the progress of dirt racing, fails to propose an increase in fixtures when it reports in the spring. The present unsatisfied demand will inevitably lead to a fourth all-weather track, probably would persuade the bookmakers to keep the betting shops open during some winter nights. Kempton Park will surely be the favourite.

But what will the expansion of all-weather racing do to the overall nature of racing in this country? Will the sport benefit from staging extra meetings where the quality is, at best, moderate and, at worst, dreadful? Worse still, will it further undermine jump racing, which enjoys public and betting appeal — half of the

RICHARD EVANS



Racing commentary

top 20 betting races are over the jumps. All-weather racing should be the mortar which helps to bind racing's bricks together. If it is allowed to replace one of the main bricks it will threaten the sport's very foundations.

Whatever the outcome of the all-weather review group, the BHB and Levy Board must take action soon to assist National Hunt racing by encouraging those who breed National Hunt stock and would-be owners of jumpers who often to have wait two or three seasons before knowing if their purchase has any ability.

One of the most effective measures would be for the Levy Board to fine tune its allocation of prize-money and split it evenly between racing's two codes rather than maintain the present 60-40 split in the Flat's favour. That could be achieved, in part, by reducing substantially the prize-money on offer at all-weather tracks during the winter. The alternative is to do nothing and allow the all-weather slowly squeeze jump racing to death.

Master Oats takes giant strides towards summit

By JULIAN MUSCAT



Williamson: fine treble

THE sight before Kim Bailey's eyes must have been distinctly unpleasant as he reviewed the wreckage surrounding Master Oats' return to action at Uttoxeter 14 months ago. With blood draining in torrents from high up in the gelding's airways, the thought furthest from Bailey's mind was that Master Oats would one day cast a dominant shadow over his contemporaries.

"I thought then that we'd be lucky to race him again, never mind see him in this position," Bailey said after his mudlark toyed with the opposition in the Pillar Property Investments Chase at Cheltenham on Saturday. "I've never seen a horse bleed so badly from those in my life."

Thus commenced the unusual training routine which culminated in a rout so complete that Master Oats is now as short as 2-1 favourite for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. It would be some way for Bailey to end his Cheltenham Festival drought.

In physical terms, Master Oats is the equivalent of a second-row forward: a towering, raw-boned, individual with a sparsely furnished frame. Yet Bailey has contrived a training regime wholly bereft of hard running. Twice a day, every day, Master Oats defies conventional wisdom in taking his exercise lightly.

"He is never out of a hack canter at home, which is why he ran a little half way through the race," Bailey said yesterday. The programme was suggested by my head lad, Eddie Hales. It is entirely stress-free to guard against him breaking

blood vessels. The horse won't even do an gallop before the Gold Cup."

Ridden with dash by Norman Williamson, who completed a treble aboard Fourth In Line and Mudahim, Master Oats galloped and fenced with a conviction sadly lacking among this season's championship aspirants.

Barton Bank, whose abundant talent is restricted by his sketchy jumping, was handled with restraint by Adrian Maguire on ground deemed too testing. He did little to advance his own prospects, eventually losing second place to his stable companion, Dubacilla, who toiled home 15 lengths behind Master Oats.

Impressive though it was, Bailey advised caution. "You can pick holes in the form," he said. "Dubacilla came from a long way back, Barton Bank was ridden to get round and Young

Hustler hates soft ground. There are a lot of ifs and buts."

The most pertinent concerns Young Hustler, whose attitude never ceases to impress. Should the Gold Cup be contested on good ground — and Master Oats remains largely unproven on the surface — then Young Hustler will prove infinitely more dangerous than was indicated by his fourth placing here.

Only fast terrain would eliminate Master Oats from the Cheltenham equation. The nine-year-old, with but 14 races on the clock, will surely be allocated top weight in the Grand National handicap to be published a week today. But his Aintree admirers should beware that Master Oats takes longer than most to recover from his races. The three-week gap between racing festivals may not suffice.

SOUTHWELL			
THUNDERER			
1.00 Fletcher's Bounty	3.00 Intention		
1.30 Kirov Protége	3.30 Warwick Warrior		
2.00 Halloway	4.00 Polly Lame		
2.30 Walk The Beat	4.30 Smaat (nap)		

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 HAWWAM.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.00 INTENTION (nap), 3.30 Warwick Warrior, 4.30 Bani-Ddu.

GOWLS STANDARD		DRAW: LOW NUMBERS BEST		SIS
1.00 LONDONDERY HANDICAP (Div 1 £2,537.1m) (9 runners)				
*1	200-40	PROFIT RELEASE 14 (10) 12 to 13 to 14 to 15 to 16 to 17 to 18 to 19 to 20 to 21 to 22 to 23 to 24 to 25 to 26 to 27 to 28 to 29 to 30 to 31 to 32 to 33 to 34 to 35 to 36 to 37 to 38 to 39 to 40 to 41 to 42 to 43 to 44 to 45 to 46 to 47 to 48 to 49 to 50 to 51 to 52 to 53 to 54 to 55 to 56 to 57 to 58 to 59 to 60 to 61 to 62 to 63 to 64 to 65 to 66 to 67 to 68 to 69 to 70 to 71 to 72 to 73 to 74 to 75 to 76 to 77 to 78 to 79 to 80 to 81 to 82 to 83 to 84 to 85 to 86 to 87 to 88 to 89 to 90 to 91 to 92 to 93 to 94 to 95 to 96 to 97 to 98 to 99 to 100 to 101 to 102 to 103 to 104 to 105 to 106 to 107 to 108 to 109 to 110 to 111 to 112 to 113 to 114 to 115 to 116 to 117 to 118 to 119 to 120 to 121 to 122 to 123 to 124 to 125 to 126 to 127 to 128 to 129 to 130 to 131 to 132 to 133 to 134 to 135 to 136 to 137 to 138 to 139 to 140 to 141 to 142 to 143 to 144 to 145 to 146 to 147 to 148 to 149 to 150 to 151 to 152 to 153 to 154 to 155 to 156 to 157 to 158 to 159 to 160 to 161 to 162 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1018 to 1019 to 1020 to 1021 to 1022 to 1023 to 1024 to 1025 to 1026 to 1027 to 1028 to 1029 to 1030 to 1031 to 1032 to 1033 to 1034 to 1035 to 1036 to 1037 to 1038 to 1039 to 1040 to 1041 to 1042 to 1043 to 1044 to 1045 to 1046 to 1047 to 1048 to 1049 to 1050 to 1051 to 1052 to 1053 to 1054 to 1055 to 1056 to 1057 to 1058 to 1059 to 1060 to 1061 to 1062 to 1063 to 1064 to 1065 to 1066 to 1067 to 1068 to 1069 to 1070 to 1071 to 1072 to 1073 to 1074 to 1075 to 1076 to 1077 to 1078 to 1079 to 1080 to 1081 to 1082 to 1083 to 1084 to 1085 to 1086 to 1087 to 1088 to 1089 to 1090 to 1091 to 1092 to 1093 to 1094 to 1095 to 1096 to 1097 to 1098 to 1099 to 1100 to 1101 to 1102 to 1103 to 1104 to 1105 to 1106 to 1107 to 1108 to 1109 to 1110 to 1111 to 1112 to 1113 to 1114 to 1115 to 1116 to 1117 to 1118 to 1119 to 1120 to 1121 to 1122 to 1123 to 1124 to 1125 to 1126 to 1127 to 1128 to 1129 to 1130 to 1131 to 1132 to 1133 to 1134 to 1135 to 1136 to 1137 to 1138 to 1139 to 1140 to 1141 to 1142 to 1143 to 1144 to 1145 to 1146 to 1147 to 1148 to 1149 to 1150 to 1151 to 1152 to 1153 to 1154 to 1155 to 1156 to 1157 to 1158 to 1159 to 1160 to 1161 to 1162 to 1163 to 1164 to 1165 to 1166 to 1167 to 1168 to 1169 to 1170 to 1171 to 1172 to 1173 to 1174 to 1175 to 1176 to 1177 to 1178 to 1179 to 1180 to 1181 to 1182 to 1183 to 1184 to 1185 to 1186 to 1187 to 1188 to 1189 to 1190 to 1191 to 1192 to 1193 to 1194 to 1195 to 1196 to 1197 to 1198 to 1199 to 1200 to 1201 to 1202 to 1203 to 1204 to 1205 to 1206 to 1207 to 1208 to 1209 to 1210 to 1211 to 1212 to 1213 to 1214 to 1215 to 1216 to 1217 to 1218 to 1219 to 1220 to 1221 to 1222 to 1223 to 1224 to 1225 to 1226 to 1227 to 1228 to 1229 to 1230 to 1231 to 1232 to 1233 to 1234 to 1235 to 1236 to 1237 to 1238 to 1239 to 1240 to 1241 to 1242 to 1243 to 1244 to 1245 to 1246 to 1247 to 1248 to 1249 to 1250 to 1251 to 1252 to 1253 to 1254 to 1255 to 1256 to 1257 to 1258 to 1259 to 1260 to 1261 to 1262 to 1263 to 1264 to 1265 to 1266 to 1267 to 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1393 to 1394 to 1395 to 1396 to 1397 to 1398 to 1399 to 1400 to 1401 to 1402 to 1403 to 1404 to 1405 to 1406 to 1407 to 1408 to 1409 to 1410 to 1411 to 1412 to 1413 to 1414 to 1415 to 1416 to 1417 to 1418 to 1419 to 1420 to 1421 to 1422 to 1423 to 1424 to 1425 to 1426 to 1427 to 1428 to 1429 to 1430 to 1431 to 1432 to 1433 to 1434 to 1435 to 1436 to 1437 to 1438 to 1439 to 1440 to 1441 to 1442 to 1443 to 1444 to 1445 to 1446 to 1447 to 1448 to 1449 to 1450 to 1451 to 1452 to 1453 to 1454 to 1455 to 1456 to 1457 to 1458 to 1459 to 1460 to 1461 to 1462 to 1463 to 1464 to 1465 to 1466 to 1467 to 1468 to 1469 to 1470 to 1471 to 1472 to 1473 to 1474 to 1475 to 1476 to 1477 to 1478 to 1479 to 1480 to 1481 to 1482 to 1483 to 1484 to 1485 to 1486 to 1487 to 1488 to 1489 to 1490 to 1491 to 1492 to 1493 to 1494 to 1495 to 1496 to 1497 to 1498 to 1499 to 1500 to 1501 to 1502 to 1503 to 1504 to 1505 to 1506 to 1507 to 1508 to 1509 to 1510 to 1511 to 1512 to 1513 to 1514 to 1515 to 1516 to 1517 to 1518 to 1519 to 1520 to 1521 to 1522 to 1523 to 1524 to 1525 to 1526 to 1527 to 1528 to 1529 to 1530 to 1531 to 1532 to 1533 to 1534 to 1535 to 1536 to 1537 to 1538 to 1539 to 1540 to 1541 to 1542 to 1543 to 1544 to 1545 to 1546 to 1547 to 1548 to 1549 to 1550 to 1551 to 1552 to 1553 to 1554 to 1555 to 1556 to 1557 to 1558 to 1559 to 1560 to 1561 to 1562 to 1563 to 1564 to 1565 to 1566 to 1567 to 1568 to 1569 to 1570 to 1571 to 1572 to 1573 to 1574 to 1575 to 1576 to 1577 to 1578 to 1579 to 1580 to 1581 to 1582 to 1583 to 1584 to 1585 to 1586 to 1587 to 1588 to 1589 to 1590 to 1591 to 1592 to 1593 to 1594 to 1595 to 1596 to 1597 to 1598 to 1599 to 1600 to 1601 to 1602 to 1603 to 1604 to 1605 to 1606 to 1607 to 1608 to 1609 to 1610 to 1611 to 1612 to 1613 to 1614 to 1615 to 1616 to 1617 to 1618 to 1619 to 1620 to 1621 to 1622 to 1623 to 1624 to 1625 to 1626 to 1627 to 1628 to 1629 to 1630 to 1631 to 1632 to 1633 to 1634 to 1635 to 1636 to 1637 to 1638 to 1639 to 1640 to 1641 to 1642 to 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1893 to 1894 to 1895 to 1896 to 1897 to 1898 to 1899 to 1900 to 1901 to 1902 to 1903 to 1904 to 1905 to 1906 to 1907 to 1908 to 1909 to 1910 to 1911 to 1912 to 1913 to 1914 to 1915 to 1916 to 1917 to 1918 to 1919 to 1920 to 1921 to 1922 to 1923 to 1924 to 1925 to 1926 to 1927 to 1928 to 1929 to 1930 to 1931 to 1932 to 1933 to 1934 to 1935 to 1936 to 1937 to 1938 to 1939 to 1940 to 1941 to 1942 to 1943 to 1944 to 1945 to 1946 to 1947 to 1948 to 1949 to 1950 to 1951 to 1952 to 1953 to 1954 to 1955 to 1956 to 1957 to 1958 to 1959 to 1960 to 1961 to 1962 to 1963 to 1964 to 1965 to 1966 to 1967 to 1968 to 1969 to 1970 to 1971 to 1972 to 1973 to 1974 to 1975 to 1976 to 1977 to 1978 to 1979 to 1980 to 1981 to 1982 to 1983 to 1984 to 1985 to 1986 to 1987 to 1988 to 1989 to 1990 to 1991 to 1992 to 1993 to 1994 to 1995 to 1996 to 1997 to 1998 to 1999 to 2000 to 2001 to 2002 to 2003 to 2004 to 2005 to 2006 to 2007 to 2008 to 2009 to 2010 to 2011 to 2012 to 2013 to 2014 to 2015 to 2016 to 2017 to 2018 to 2019 to 2020 to 2021 to 2022 to 2023 to 2024 to 2025 to 2026 to 2027 to 2028 to 2029 to 2030 to 2031 to 2032 to 2033 to 2034 to 2035 to 2036 to 2037 to 2038 to 2039 to 2040 to 2041 to 2042 to 2043 to 2044 to 2045 to 2046 to 2047 to 2048 to 2049 to 2050 to 2051 to 2052 to 2053 to 2054 to 2055 to 2056 to 2057 to 2058 to 2059 to 2060 to 2061 to 2062 to 2063 to 2064 to 2065 to 2066 to 2067 to 2068 to 2069 to 2070 to 2071 to 2072 to 2073 to 2074 to 2075 to 2076 to 2077 to 2078 to 2079 to 2080 to 2081 to 2082 to 2083 to 2084 to 2085 to 2086 to 2087 to 2088 to 2089 to 2090 to 2091 to 2092 to 2093 to 2094 to 2095 to 2096 to 2097 to 2098 to 2099 to 2100 to 2101 to 2102 to 2103 to 2104 to 2105 to 2106 to 2107 to 2108 to 2109 to 2110 to 2111 to 2112 to 2113 to 2114 to 2115 to 2116 to 2117 to 2118 to 2119 to 2120 to 2121 to 2122 to 2123 to 2124 to 2125 to 2126 to 2127 to 2128 to 2129 to 2130 to 2131 to 2132 to 2133 to 2134 to 2135 to 2136 to 2137 to 2138 to 2139 to 2140 to 2141 to 2142 to 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NORDIC SKIING

country: 15km classic: 1. V
(Kazak) 38min 57.2sec; 2. J Isome

Bismark 72, 70, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 8

NEWPORT: Welsh Open: Semi-
Davis (Eng) bt P Ebdon (Eng) 6-3, J

[illegible]

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Mon; First c

67, 68, 69; S Ford (US) 69, 71, 64, 69
279; V Phillips (GB) 68, 68, 74, 69

NETBALL

CARDIFF: European League: England 67
Wales 22

Blantyre 2 BA McGregor Glasgow 3, Fife
Perth 2; Dundee 2 Runcorn 3, Paisley
3 Kilmarnock 2; Cardinals 0 Glasgow R
Winnans: First division: Blantyre
Hezlehead 3; Whitburn 0 Grangemouth
Perth 1 NUVOC 0 Runcorn 3; Paisley F
Ayrshire K 3, Edinburgh U 0 Cardinals 3

UNION

Pilkington Cup		Heineken League	
Fifth round		Second division	
Bristol	8 Leicester 16	Usherston	18 Llandoverly
Bristol: Try: Eves. Pen: Tainton. Leicester: Try: Kardooni. Con: Uley. Pans: Liley 2. Hams.		Llanharan: Tries: Bebbiton, Morris. Con: Morris. Pans: Morris 2. Llandoverly: Try: Williams. Pans: Richards 2.	
Exeter	18 Aspetrie 6	Postponed: Currie v West of Scotland	

Melrose v Heriot's FP; Stirling Co
Glasgow High Kelvingdale.

[illegible]

THIRD DIVISION: Bostoned: Cas

Lewie. Cons: Grayson 2. Pens: Grayson.
Rilohmond: Pens: Gregory 2.

Orell 19 Bath 25

Orell: Try: Langford. Con: Langford.
Pens: Langford 3. Dropped goal:
Langford. Batfr: Tries: Guscott. Swift.
Pens: Callard 2. Dropped goals: Call 3.

Sale 55 Flyds 13

Sale: Tries: Yates 3, Mallinder 2, Appleton,
Fowler, Vazirimullo, Stocks, Cons: Turner
Tredagar.

McEwan's League

First division

Edinburgh Ac 30 Stewart's Mel

Edinburgh Academicals: Tries: Heslie,
Hay-Smith, McIvor. Pens: Hay-Smith
Dropped goal: Burns

Watsons 9 Boroughmuir 2

Boroughmuir: Trias: Stark 2, Tulek
Eason: Bens: Eason 2, Dimpner

Waterloo	73	Wesley	39
Waterloo:	Try; Bibby.	Cont:	Swindells.
Pont:	Swindells 2.	Waspas:	Tyler; Dellingio,
Dunston,	D. Hopley.	F. Hopley,	Kirsey,
Poppewald,	Udon.	Wassins:	
FLUORANTINE SHIELD:	Steth round;	Middle-	
lands and North:	Bromyard 6	North Shields	
11; Rushden and Higham	8	Buckingham 8	
O. Postonred:	Wallesey v Bedford	Cusens,	
Wibsey v Huddersfield YMCA	South West		

W of Scotland	9	4	0	5	130	16
Dundee HSPP	9	3	1	5	133	16
1st Fleet	9	2	2	2	127	16

Field 11.	Set/Press	9	3	0	6	12	176
	Cuttle	6	1	0	8	114	194
	Second div	10	1	0	9	128	234

Swalec Cup							
Fifth round							
Bath Wells	10	Bonymeen	0	Bigger	8	Musselburgh	
Swalec Wells	Trices	Lewis, Parry.		Siggar	Try	Jack	Perry
Dunvant	26	Tonyreall	7	Musselburgh	Pens	C	Livingstone 2.
Dunvant	Trices	Nicola 2.	Powder, M	Wiglowrains	15	Kelso	3
Trices	Cont	Thomas	2	Wiglowrains	Trices	A	Drydale, Jessop
Dunvant	S	Evans	7	Cop.	Gibson	Pen	Gwynn
Dunvant	S	Evans	7	Kelso	15	Kelso	3

Pens: Aitchison &

Lennell: Triest: C Quinell 2, Boobyer,
 Monr: Cone: Stephens 2, Peris: Stephens,
 Moriston 13 Neath 40
 Moriston: Try: Davies, Con: Roden, Per:
 Roden, Dropped goal: Roden, Neath:
 Triest: D Llewellyn 2, Boobyer, McCarthy,
 Thomas, Woodland, Cone: McCarthy 4,
 Islid.
 Nelson 0 Newbridge 20
 Newbridge: Triest: Lucas 2, Withers: Con:

Edinburgh W	2	4	0	5	159	184
Preston	2	4	0	5	157	187
Preston	2	4	0	5	134	164

Dunne, Phyl: Tries: Lloyd, Morris.		
Pratt: 69	12	
Pratt: Tries: Jenkins, 2, Robbins, 2, P. John, 3, James, 3, J. Lewis, 1, May, 1, Spiller, 2, Jenkins, 4, Platt, Jenkins, 1		
Pratt: Tries: M Taylor, 1, White, 1, Williams.		
Pyle 7	36	
Pyle: Tries: Davies, 1, Corrie, 1, Gardner, 1, Tries: Ford, 4, Davies, Williams, Corrie.		
Glasgow: Acids	9	159
Cardiff	3	177
Cardiff	3	106
Cardiff	3	138
Cardiff	10	137
Gwynedd	3	108
Gwynedd	3	108
Hudders	2	142

CIS County Championship

Quarter-final		
Berkshire	25	12
Berkshire: Tries: Dance, Dangerous		

CLUB MATCHES: Bolton 1-1

	1	Cardinal	22
Fondue:	Tracy, Edwards, Cardill		
Trist:	Matthews, Ferris, penalty by, Thomas		
Corn:	Saviano		
0	Bridgend	39	

Warrington v Leamington; Hull Ionian
Loray; Leeds v West Hartlepool; New

Disposition: Eboli Vata v Old Wydians;
 Seven Sisters v Blackwood; South Wales
 Police v Old Penarthians; Tenby United v
 Aberavon; Whittland v Mountain Ash.

Division: Barry v Newcastle Gosforth;
 Penarth v Barmby; Plymouth v Nuneaton;
 Rosslyn Park v Walsall; Shetfield v Roth-
 erham; Sudbury v Norwich; Maesteg v
 Glamorgan Wanderers.

Third division: Allox v Actonath; Caley Thia

ASKETBALL: Buchwalter League: Ch
Sheffield (6 0): Doncaster v Derby (6 :

HOCKEY UNION
FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP: England
France (B&C) Twickenham, 2.30; Scot-
land v Ireland (B&C) Murrayfield, 2.30.

RUGBY LEAGUE First division: Bridg-
ton v Aberystwyth Llanyrhod v Cardiff: Neath v
Newcastle, Pontypool v Newport, Swansea
Dunvant, Treorchy v Pontypool.

OTHER SPORT
ATHLETICS: AAA indoor championships

WOCKER: Benson and Hedges Masters
(Wembley)

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CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Tottenham
topped Blackburn Rovers (3-1 0)
ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First
division: West Bromwich Albion v Charlton
Athletic (1-1 2.55)
RUGBY LEAGUE
TONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First
division: Featherstone Rovers v Wakefield
triumph (3-30); Halifax v Salford (3-30);
Leam v Hull (3-0); Sheffield v St Helens

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In the heartlands of football, Jennai Cox witnesses the search for future British tennis talent

The ball's in the youngsters' court

Merseyside Soccer territory in season. Not a football in sight. Most Liverpoolians focus their attention on the match at Anfield this time of year. But not so far away at The Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre a few people decided it was the right time and place to search for the country's next Wimbledon champion. No British tennis player has won the tournament since Virginia Wade in 1977.

Behind closed club doors is where most tennis talent is found. The Wimbledon enthusiasm has evaporated. The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) estimates that almost half the country's 4.5 million tennis players disappear with the summer. "Love Tennis" was launched over the two weekends following the tournament last year and succeeded in prolonging the post-Wimbledon interest in the game. Free tennis for all age-groups of all abilities attracted 15,000 people to the courts.

The LTA, trying to stretch that interest further with a project it hopes to expand nationwide, chose The Wirral for its first winter tennis talent hunt.

Five hundred children aged between five and 12 competed for one of the 25 places in the final. Most entrants had never picked up a racket and finalists were selected for potential rather than ability. There were no nerves. Like the professionals that the organisers hope they will aspire to be, once the racket was swinging and balls bouncing, inhibitions disappeared. Concentration and vigour was devoted to the sport. An attentive audience of parents, coaches, judges and organisers ceased to exist.

Not a single set was played. Following a warm-up of running, jumping and galloping around the courts, the children were split into three age-groups. LTA tennis development officers took them through a series of potential-assessing activities: lying flat on the ground and getting back on their feet again while keeping a tennis ball bouncing with their rackets, throwing the ball in the air and clapping at least ten times before catching and running to hit a served ball then skirting the net to collect it again.

From this performance was judged their natural ability, hand and eye coordination, balance, movement precision, attitude and reaction times.

David Buzzard, a tennis coach at the Liverpool LTA indoor centre, said: "Attitude for the game is important, but we are also looking for the children's responses to what is going on around them. There is more to tennis than hitting the ball over the net. The racket can come later."

Barbara Tomlinson, 10, catching her breath before the ball-bashing session, said: "I've been excited up to and all of today. Though it is



often easy to interest a child in a sport, holding on to the initial novelty is not so simple. The mother of Iwan Pritchard, 10, admitted that though her son was showing all the signs of a budding pro as he whacked the balls ferociously over the net, she was not sure how long it would last. But tennis coaches, parents and children alike gave the same answer when asked why they play: enjoyment and fun.

Mark Hamilton, primary judge of the talent hunt, thinks that one of the many attractions of tennis is its completeness. "You can play as an individual or as part of a team, against or in partnership with the opposite sex," he said. "Tennis is exciting and rewarding and it's about being in control."

If anyone drops out of any of Hamilton's classes, he phones them to find out why. "It's very rarely anything to do with the game," he said. Matches, games and competitions are held the year round, so most learners keep

coming back. All this, of course, is a far cry from Wimbledon, but holding this event so far away in time and place from the home of tennis was deliberate. The coaches at the centres want to try to move away from traditional tennis associations of clean white clothes and green grass courts. Hamilton said: "The present image of tennis is staid and highly related to the Wimbledon stereotype of the game. We are trying to get away from that."

Getting people used to the idea of indoor tennis is one of the first steps in encouraging them to pick up a racket. Then there is the task of making it cheap and informal. At the LTA centres, there is no pressure about what to wear, no membership fee and rackets and balls are supplied. Coverts with a supervisory coach available on an hourly pay-and-play basis can cost as little as £1.50 a person.

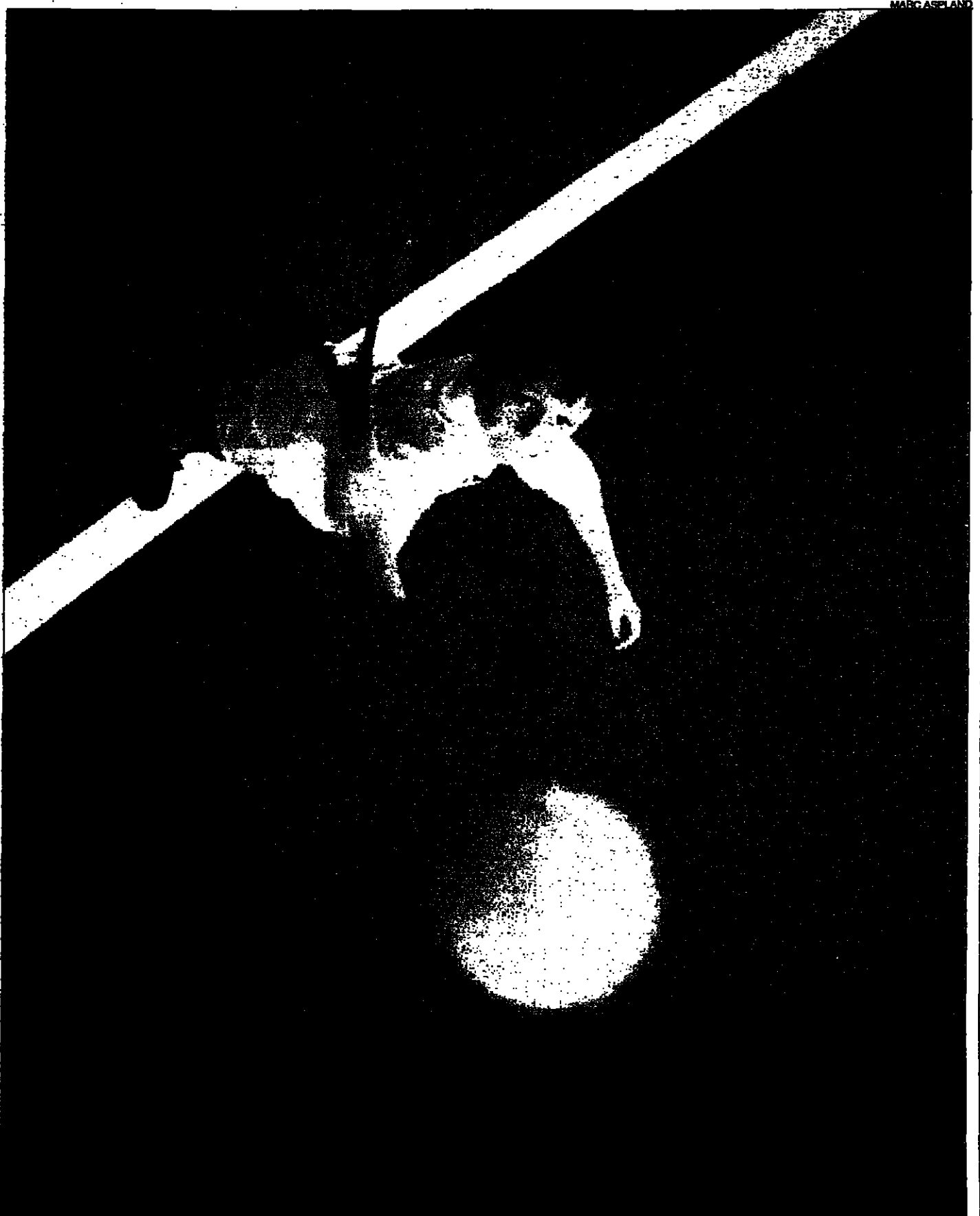
The centres are trying to do the opposite of what most private clubs do, said Hamilton. All the competition tennis hopefuls were multi-coloured shorts and T-shirts. With the recent multi-million pound windfalls from television fees and ticket sales for Wimbledon the LTA has been able to fulfil a long-held ambition of making tennis more accessible to the public.

More than 30 indoor centres have been built since the late 1980s, and 12 more are planned over the next five years. Plans are being made already to build on the success of the talent hunt, during which about 120 children signed for tennis courses.

Chris Boardman, the British Olympic cyclist, who helped to present the awards warned parents of the subtle difference between pushing and encouragement. But the game and its players in Britain need all the pushing they can get.

Boardman also told the finalists, all proudly clutching the new rackets they had won, that if they did not enjoy the game they should not be playing. There was no shortage of enjoyment at this tournament. Because to these potential champs, tennis is still a game.

For details of courts and coaching in your area, phone the Lawn Tennis Association (0171-381 7017).



Future ace? A young player at The Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre — all part of the mission to find a tennis star of tomorrow

Shuker win gives great boost to supporters

By RICHARD EATON

MATTHEW SHUKER'S supporters believe his capture of the English Schools under-16 badminton title at Coventry yesterday may be a step towards his ambition of competing in the 2000 Olympics.

The evidence of the Hampshire player's 9-15, 15-11, 15-10 victory over Andrew South, of Nottingham, suggests that they are right — in which case, Shuker could help raise his sport into greater prominence. Only 50 people or so watched him recover from 2-40 to beat South in an absorbing contest — yet this country has more players than anywhere else in the world — an estimated four million.

Badminton is televised in 50 countries across Asia and the Middle East and the variety provided by a contrast of styles, even in a schoolboy final at a rain-swept provincial venue, illustrated this.

Badminton in Britain is a sleeping giant ready for awakening. "We have plans to develop our circuit and want to work with the Badminton Association of England," Eric Brown, the chairman of the English Schools Association, said. "But there are still some dinosaurs around making it difficult for us."

Shuker, nevertheless, believes his future is bright. He is fitting his studies at Lord Wandsworth School in Fleet around his ambition to become a professional player, and will order his priorities this way even if he achieves a place at Oxford University.

Planning carefully was equally important for Alison Reed, 15, from Bulmershe Comprehensive School in Berkshire, who unexpectedly played her way to three finals — and won all of them. She looked capable of emulating the achievement of her father and coach, Bob, who played five times at the All England championships.

"There is no sport that is going to develop your maturity better than badminton," he said. "You can't spend all day at a badminton court without being organised."

Photograph, page 32

John Goodbody visits a school that promotes the personal touch

Millfield enjoys enviable reputation

MILLFIELD has aroused both suspicion and jealousy since it was founded in Somerset 60 years ago. Other schools have considered it to be just a bit too good at sport, with its pupils just a bit too keen on the pursuit of success.

Particularly galling for some competitors has been the way that Millfield has achieved an extraordinary range of both team and individual excellence while, simultaneously, improving its academic record. Millfield is not a sports factory. Last year, out of the 209 school leavers, 159 went on to British, and a further five to American, universities. Twenty-two pupils won places at either Oxford or Cambridge.

One significant reason why Millfield has enjoyed such success is its low staff-to-pupil ratio — two members of staff to every 15 pupils — and a concentration on the personal development of each individual. This is reflected in the school's attitude to sport. As Christopher Martin, the headmaster, put it: "To tell a boy that he is an individual but that he has to play rugby union all his life does not help."

Ever since "Boss" Meyer founded the school in 1935, with seven Indian immigrants, the emphasis has been on nurturing the talents of particular boys and girls on the roll of 1,250 pupils. Fees are means-tested, but sports bursaries are not offered. Awards are given, but on both academic and other potential.

Duncan Goodhew, the 1980 Olympic 100-metres breaststroke champion, is a typical former pupil. He went to Millfield aged 14, struggling academically because nobody had spotted that he was dyslexic and so disturbed that he had lost his hair. At the interview, Meyer spotted that the young Goodhew might indeed be dyslexic, and he was given special attention.

Goodhew said: "Millfield helped me put my life together. There was a personal touch, both academically and in sport."

Of course, his swimming was encouraged. He entered the school as a county competitor and, within a year of leaving, he was in the Olympic



IN SCHOOLS

final. The experience that the school gave provided the impetus and confidence for the rest of his life.

What was striking at Millfield last Saturday, despite the cancellation of many fixtures because of the weather, were both the number of activities taking place and the quality of the performers.

Seven inter-school football matches could not be played. This is a sport in which Chris Pendrick has just been picked for the England under-18 schools' squad. He is the only member not already attached to a professional club.

Three games of rugby union were also cancelled. Last season, Millfield won all of its fixtures with the exception of an 18-6 defeat by Durban High School, the world champions from South Africa.

Hockey, however, went ahead last weekend on the artificial pitch and the Millfield boys' first team, with six members of the West

England schools' squad, defeated Downside 6-0. Five old boys have represented Britain at hockey in recent years.

Millfield are the national under-15 boys tennis champions, and last Saturday, the school was playing the Somerset

under-18 team on three courts that will shortly be covered. The swimming squad was training in a pool that will be superseded by the completion, in July, of a 50-metre Olympic-sized pool — only the eighth to be built in Britain and the first at any school. The facility was originally to be 25 metres long, but an anonymous parent, whose children do not swim, offered to pay for the remaining distance. It was, Martin said, "the best 7am phone call I have ever had in my life".

The fencing team, including Glen Golding — who competed at the 1994 world junior championships — was warming up for the Great Britain youth foil championships, which were held in London yesterday, while three other pupils were at the men's épée championships.

Three Millfield netball teams were away at the South West Schools championship and two girls were travelling to Birmingham for the national indoor athletics championship. Two leading runners, Dorothea Lee, the national schools under-17 800 metres champion, and Andrew Hennessey, a junior cross country international, both of whom are going to Oxford next year, were out training.

Squash, judo, karate, archery and football were all taking place in a welter of indoor activity, while, in the weight-training room, Ben McCorkill, a member of the England under-17 cricket team, was preparing for the forthcoming season. "It is the atmosphere of the school: I would not do as much if I were not here," he said.

Every pupil participates in sport at least three afternoons a week, with juniors having additional physical education lessons. Bev Dovey, master in charge of sport, said: "Although they do start with team games, some pupils do not like them or prefer an individual sport. We try to find a niche for all of them among the 40 activities we offer."

Some of Millfield's outstanding former pupils: RUGBY UNION: Gareth Edwards, J P R Williams, Chris Olver; CRICKET: Peter Roebuck, David Gaveney; ATHLETICS: Mary Rand, Kirsty Wade; TENNIS: Mark Cox, Andrew Jarrett, Andrew Castle; SWIMMING: Duncan Goodhew, Mark Foster, Suzanne Brownson, Paul Howe, Helen Bowley; MODERN PENTATHLON: Dominic Melnyk.

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Bargains among my souvenirs

Isaw, in the paper which the man in the row in front of me was reading on the aeroplane, that the estate of a Birmingham dentist had received £290,000 for the sale of his cricketer memorabilia. And I felt sick.

Only partly did I feel sick because I was flying Air India instead of Virgin, which is so much more uplifting.

I felt sick because it had never occurred to me that memorabilia is a valuable asset rather than something to which one clings while Lady F wishes to find room for pictures of grandchildren, the microwave and what she has bought at the new year sales.

What surprised me most about the cricket auction was that people out there are prepared to buy stuff which does not have a story to go with it.

I have a programme from a Wembley fight: UK British heavyweight championship, Billy Walker v Jack Gardner ... what one would now have to explain as being a contest between the brother of financier George Walker and a fairly talented, pugilistic market gardener from Market Harborough.

What makes my programme special, and my wife so keen to get it out of the house, is the blood which encrusts it: which has congealed to the point of cementing the 16-page song sheet into a solid rectangle.

It is Walker's blood: that of a brave fighter who led with his chin, hoping to do terrible damage to the fists of those that hit it. I imagine that "a bloody fight card — 1963" would realise only a fraction of the boodle it might fetch accompanied by the stub of my ringside seat, a description of the circumstances and a certificate of authenticity from a pathological laboratory.

There is a two-minute film of me, interviewed on Brazilian television in 1971. I had sailed as ship's cook for Robin Knox-Johnston's *Ocean Spirit* on the first Cape Town to Rio race in which we won line honours

and were fêted by the local media.

"Who is the chef?" they asked, meaning who is in control. I was brought forth and taken to the studios.

"What did you do when met by force seven winds approaching St Helena?" Lamb and caper sauce, I explained, with new potatoes boiled in sea water.

I got the large inscribed bronze medallion for launching a passenger ferry in Yokohama: the *Financial Times* had asked me to describe the ceremony. On the lookout for the officiating Swedish ambassador, and paranoid about punctuality, the Japanese saw me

CLEMENT FREUD



Afterthoughts

arrive on the stroke of 3pm. They bowed, led me to a pier, handed me a bottle of champagne, applauded as it hit the bows and took me to a stage from which we all made speeches — mine being particularly applauded by His Excellency from Stockholm whose car had been held up in a traffic jam.

I have a framed train ticket: Mexico City to Leon with three counter-signatures for my expenses claim. On the way to reporting the England quarter-final match against Germany in the 1970 World Cup, the train's sleeping accommodation had been block-booked by the enterprising chapter of prostitutes ... and the only way to get an hour on your back was to pay the inflated asking price.

There is much more to my collection, but it still leaves it in excess of £280,000 short of the Birmingham dentist's.

A head taking an independent view

For some 700 years Abingdon has confounded its foes. John O'Leary introduces a special report on a school with a history of success

Abingdon School believes it has found the perfect model for independent education in the transition to a new century: the atmosphere of a top boarding school without the costs, and healthy competition for day places to ensure high academic standards and a good social mix.

Michael St John Parker, the headmaster, makes no secret of his belief that the prime responsibility of the independent sector is to help to educate an academic elite, who will be crucial to future national prosperity. But social divisiveness is not part of the agenda at a school which only reluctantly gave up its foothold in the state system.

'We can be reasonably sure of surviving Tony Blair'

Abingdon was a direct grant school until Labour abolished the system in 1976. Almost 20 years later, about a quarter of the 760 boys benefit from the Assisted Places Scheme or the school's own bursary programme, but this level of support is once more under threat.

to consider slightly different circumstances as long as high quality is maintained.

In a 700-year history, Abingdon has faced much greater challenges. Mr St John Parker says: "If we have seen off Henry VIII, we can be reasonably sure of surviving Tony Blair, and I say that without hubris."

The school, six miles south of Oxford, has never been cushioned by the sort of endowments enjoyed by other ancient foundations. In previous centuries it has been close to folding, and frittered away its one real money-spinner when the site of the present headquarters of Barclays Bank was sold for

£9,300 in 1866.

That has not stopped Abingdon carrying out a remarkable building programme over the last two decades, however. With substantial help from the Mercers' Company, which has been the school's main benefactor for many years, the premises have been updated and expanded. The latest new building houses a high-quality information technology and study room for sixth-formers that helped to prevent a single boy leaving after last year's GCSE examinations.

Mr St John Parker says: "We are now in a better position than at any time in my 20 years as head. The



The school's oarsmen on the Thames: Julia Simpson, their coach, regards rowing as the ultimate team sport. "They must work together and pull one another along," she says

quality of the place is indicated by good results across the board, but that certainly is not all we have to offer.

"A lot of headmastering is about composing a school so that the people within it have a common purpose. I feel we have been getting there recently."

There is no doubting the quality of the results. Abingdon has not been one of the traditional high-flyers of

the independent system, but it was among the top 25 schools at A level last summer. Every member of the upper-sixth went to university. Almost a quarter went to Oxbridge.

The sciences are particularly strong. Half of last year's upper-sixth took A-level chemistry. 35 of the 52 candidates coming out with A grades. A number of the pupils have parents from the several leading scientific establishments, as well as the two universities around Oxford.

However, the school also has a strong tradition in classics, and two-thirds of the boys take music. It is still broadening the range of subjects on offer, partly through a closer association with the nearby St Helen and St Katharine girls' school, with which there is joint teaching in some languages, politics and history of art. Other subjects are being explored, and regular cultural and social events are organised between the two schools.

Abingdon has resisted the temptation to follow other traditional boys' schools into coeducation, preferring to pursue closer links with its neighbour. The eventual result could be a joint foundation, but not a merger. "I do believe that the academic achievement of the boys is enhanced by our single-sex status," says Mr St John Parker.

The headmaster is equally enthusiastic about the core of

130 boarders, which has held up well and is likely to increase marginally in the next year. About a quarter of them now come from overseas, but the numbers are limited, again in the interests of creating a viable community.

Much of the school's selection policy is directed to this end. Preparatory school candidates are often seen well ahead of entrance at 11 or 13 and counselled about their prospects, while even outstanding applicants are discouraged from travelling more than 20 miles to school each day, as many would. Competition among independent schools in the area is intense, but parents are attracted by the easygoing atmosphere and the splendour of the 37-acre site, as well as by Abingdon's academic credentials.

Arthur Hearnden, the general secretary of the Independent Schools Joint Council, a local resident who has been a governor for seven years, says: "I think the school has got everything going for it. Its position, its breadth and the quality it has built up make it a model of its type."

Mr St John Parker is clear about the direction the school will take, regardless of which party is in government. "I do not see that independent schools can justify themselves as mere appendages of the state system. They must be different, and we are."

Ros Drinkwater on Abingdon's sporting achievements

Play up, play up and play all the games

Julia Simpson describes herself as "a rowing class-sicist". At Abingdon School she has found the ideal job, one that combines teaching Latin and Greek as well as coaching the rowing squad. "It's great to work in a school with a good sporting reputation," she says. "There's a very enthusiastic element here: the rowers are out on the Thames every day in all weathers."

Ms Simpson sees rowing as the ultimate team sport. "It keeps you fit and fosters the team spirit. They must work together and pull one another along. Above all, it teaches them how great their inner reserves of strength can be."

Abingdon School, the third oldest rowing school in Britain after Eton and Westminster, has rowed for 150 years and is one of the few independent schools to offer the specialist sport. Recent successes include gold medals in the National Championships and selections for national and international crews. Old Abingdonians have coxed for Cambridge in the Boat Race and the England Eight which won a gold medal at the Commonwealth Regatta.

Abingdon has strong fixtures lists in the major field games of rugby football, cricket and hockey. All boys begin by playing team games at least twice a week. There are 16 rugby teams. Last year Abingdon reached the fourth round (the last 16 in the country) of the Daily Mail Cup; the senior squad spent three weeks touring Australia; and the cricketers won 14 out of 21 games.

Under-16s and under-18s regularly represent Oxford County in rugby, hockey and

cricket. In addition Abingdon competes against other schools in tennis, cross-country running, athletics, badminton, golf, shooting, rugby, table tennis, basketball and volleyball.

Other sporting activities include fencing, swimming and sailing. Orienteering is popular and every year teams compete in the Ten Tors long-

limited that a boy learns to get himself sorted out."

Andrew Broadbent is director of sport and also teaches mathematics. "In the five years that I've been here, the common room has become a lot younger and that's good for sport. Two-thirds of staff coach one game or another," he says. "Last year the head set a splendid example by running the London Marathon to raise funds for the new £2 million Mercers' Court building. The boys were really impressed both with his commitment and the fact that he finished in excellent time."

"Our biggest problem is space, and there is tremendous pressure on pitches. The aim is to include more group sport in the timetable as this is the most effective way to use our resources."

Abingdon boys are resigned to defeat at least once a year in the annual lacrosse fixture against the local St Helen and St Katharine girls' schools. Cross-dressing is *de rigueur* and the girls almost always win.

The boys who are most active in sport also do well academically because it teaches discipline and organisation



Michael St John Parker, Abingdon's headmaster, likes a good social mix

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The school offers a broad curriculum of studies and events

At Abingdon School, it is rare for pupils not to take the subjects of their choice at both GCSE and A levels, writes David Tytler. Another factor in the school's success is the wide range of other activities that balance the pressures of the classroom.

Michael St John Parker, the headmaster, says: "Many prospective parents are drawn to Abingdon by its academic reputation. They are looking for a school where reliable teaching produces consistently good examination results and offers a strong probability of entry to higher education. But once they visit they realise the school embraces far more than class teaching and examinations. Intelligent boys are especially well placed to take advantage of breadth as well as intensity, in the range of experience offered to them. We deliberately run a broad curriculum."

"We take these very able boys, we work them as hard as we can but we also try to insist — with reasonable success — that they

Flexible approach passes the test

should be engaged in a variety of activities such as music, drama, games, voluntary activities and societies."

The man who has to make the system work is Tim King, senior master (studies), who says: "The school has always stood for academic breadth and though ten is the normal number of GCSEs, boys can take subjects early so they can end up with many more. We try to produce a flexible timetable; very rarely do I have to say they cannot do the combination of subjects they want."

Perhaps the most striking example is in the third form, which has an influx of boys from preparatory schools who have been taught classics to a high level. They are able to take Latin or Greek GCSE in their first year, in a special set of lessons that allow them to take other two optional subjects.

Dr King says: "It stretches them when they first come in and gives them something for which they can aim. Two years ago, we had 21 boys taking French GCSE in Year 9 — two got Bs, the rest got As — so they were able to start their A-level course in Year 10."

Most boys are expected to continue into the sixth form, where they study three or four A levels chosen from more than 20 subjects, in almost any combination. About 95 per cent of pupils enter higher education — last year 25 went to either Oxford or Cambridge. Courses include business studies, economics, politics, history of art, theatre studies, religious studies, Greek, Russian. About seven AS levels are also available.



With a flexible timetable, boys at Abingdon often take their GCSEs early. Ten is the normal number, but they often take more

The schoolboys who have Oxford taped

Tourists in Oxford listening to their personal stereo as they move about the city, occasionally consulting their maps, are as likely to be listening to a schoolboy guide to the city as to the latest pop hit. The taped tours were produced by pupils in the information technology suite at Abingdon School as part of their involvement in Young Enterprise, a national scheme that encourages pupils to set up their own companies, design a product and then market it.

Young Enterprise is just one of a wide range of the projects and subjects that benefit from IT at Abingdon, where one of the main aims is to ensure that IT is used in the whole of the curriculum.

David Haynes, the head of IT for the past five years, says: "When the boys come in, we teach them about technology systems and how they are implemented in the school and in the wider world. Our emphasis is teaching skills in a wide range of applications, which would include word processing, databases and spreadsheets."

The school has many programs, including some of the latest professional software for design work. Mr Haynes says: "We use graphics at two levels, what one might call painting and drawing, which allows a pupil to draw a picture perhaps to illustrate a history

David Tytler on a scheme that encourages pupils to set up their own companies, with the help of information technology

project or a diagram for a science report. The other level is where we offer some really professional-type illustration and graphics programs, the sort that are used in the outside world in design studios."

Working together, Mr Haynes and David Hall, Abingdon's IT technician, de-



IT is used throughout the curriculum at Abingdon

signed and installed the new IT system using the latest technology. The system links individual departments with one of two networks, one in a new teaching block, where the IT centre is based.

One network links all the departments in the new building; the other links with the technology centre. Altogether, there are 85 computers, which works out at about nine pupils a machine. The network is being extended to the other

buildings, including the library — a strong user of IT, but not yet connected to either of the two networks.

The library has four of the school's 23 CD-Roms, and they are in almost constant use. The eight in the IT centre are accessible throughout the network so that a pupil anywhere in the school can use the system.

Other departments have their own systems so that pupils can borrow from the central library of discs to use at their own work stations.

Computers are also used by individual departments, for purposes as diverse as work with lathes, biology demonstrations, and musical composition. The modern languages department, apart from its satellite link with France and Germany, exchanges messages with French schools by facsimile and electronic mail and uses information-technology facilities to write business letters in French during their GCSE course. All subjects use IT in word processing, along with maps, graphs and scientific drawing, as well as researching information from CD-Roms and other data bases. But IT really comes into its own in modern languages.

music and technology, where the professional computer design software is used in GCSE and A-level projects.

The modern languages department has a system in which a computer encourages dialogue by actually speaking to the pupil and requesting responses to what it has said, as well as grammar and vocabulary programs in several languages, including Russian. The word-processing programmes have the special characters needed for the languages taught by the school.

The French partner school has been sent a magazine in French produced and edited by desktop publishing, which includes an agony column. Abingdon is also linked to a French information system, which gives access to a range of information, including telephone directories and even the Paris stock exchange.

Matthew Smith, 16, of the lower sixth and studying geography, history and politics hopes to go on to Oxford to read geography, then move to television, with, he hopes, the BBC's Natural History Unit. He spends two-thirds of his eight study periods a week in the IT suite, writing and researching essays.

He says: "All the subjects are essay-oriented. Using the computers means that I can reorganise and balance my essays quite easily. I can also use the CD-Roms, which can give information on anything you like. Then I incorporate that information in my work."

Striking a note of equality

A letter to the editor of the school magazine, *The Abingdonian*, makes a plea for the further development of the school's own classless education system. This, argues the sixth-form author, is the only way to knock the try-hard, ex-grammar-school image on the head once and for all.

Abingdon has long had a reputation for its promotion of the classless society. It is proud of its record in fostering both the rigorous and the theoretical on the one hand, and the practical and commercial on the other. For example, 19th-century pupils studied accounting and commercial management, as well as the usual subjects. Now the aim is to give modern expression to that tradition of mixing and welding.

According to Simon Davies, the biology master, a key element in achieving a balance is the mix of day boys and boarders. He says: "Abingdon has a boarding-school backbone balanced by a large number of pupils who look outward because they go home to their families, which is a very civilising influence. 'All-boarding' can make for introversion while 'all-day' can result in an over-academic atmosphere. In my last school, staff usually worked nine to four, which would not be possible here because of the extra-curricular work."

ern languages, agrees. "You'd find it impossible to pigeon-hole an Abingdon boy," he says. "They come from such different backgrounds, classes, even education systems."

"I really enjoy teaching the primary school boys. The first thing you notice is how well they get on with adults. Day pupils have the ability to relate to teachers as adults other than authority figures."

The theme of diversity carries through to musical activities, which play a key role in the school's life. More than half the boys learn a musical instrument. There are three orchestras, a brass band, two wind bands, flute and clarinet ensembles, a "big band" and a jazz group. This summer, the senior symphony orchestra will tour Eastern Europe.

In the space of one afternoon the school's concert hall echoed to the sound of Duke Ellington's "Night Train" and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, with 17-year-old Tristan Gurney as soloist.

Tristan enrolled at Abingdon four years ago partly to pursue his musical ambitions. He says: "It was extraordinary to join a school where almost everyone is involved in music, either instrumental or choral. Some have high ambitions and a real chance to achieve them; others play for sheer fun."



Tristan Gurney, 17, takes the lead in a school performance

Adam Pettit, head of modern languages

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EDUCATION

Sacred cows to the slaughter

Labour MP Tony Wright applauds Tony Blair's stand on schools — but urges the party to go even further

Education will be the passion of my Government... If schools are bad, they should be made good. If teachers can't teach properly, they shouldn't be teaching at all. This part of Tony Blair's speech to last year's Labour conference was an even more significant break with the party's past than anything he said about Clause Four. It is already making waves.

For too long the party was prepared to excuse the inexcusable in education. It seemed content to be the parliamentary wing of the NUT. The evidence that something had been going seriously wrong in many schools, as traditional teaching collapsed, was ignored. I vividly remember being told by one teacher that I should not worry about my son's inability to add up, as he had a "good concept of number". The evidence is now coming through on the failure of many children to emerge from some primary schools with the most basic literacy and numeracy skills. This, combined with the alarming findings on the extent of adult illiteracy among the under-40s, shows the scale of the problem.

Labour has a duty to provide quality public services for those who depend upon them. This means matching the party's traditional concern over the resources going into services with a new concern over what comes out at the other end. In education, this will require the embrace of heresies and the slaughter of sacred cows. For example, Labour should not be afraid of developing such innovations as the purchaser-provider split (though we prefer to use the language of "commissioning"). This enables the community to define and contract for services it wants, and to demand quality in delivery.

The absence of this distinction lies at the heart of the ineffective-

ness of local education authorities to act as an engine of quality — witness the cosy complicity of the old local inspection arrangements. Labour should use the opportunity provided by the need to give a new framework to grant-maintained schools to construct a new framework for all schools, whereby the local community contracts for quality provision.

This also means engaging with the traditional no-go areas of poor teachers and failing schools. When I used to run courses for parent governors, their attempts to raise questions about poor heads, incom-

petent staff and failing schools were firmly ruled off the agenda by the assembled educational establishment. It has been virtually impossible to remove incompetent teachers or poor heads. Yet we know that heads can make or break schools. As with doctors, sexual misconduct matters, but routine incompetence does not. It is surely time that all head teachers were appointed on fixed contracts.

Labour should not be coy about league tables — whether relating to the performance of schools, hospitals or other public services. Of course, it matters to have reliable league tables, but it matters even more to use the information revealed by them to drive up standards. It was chastening to hear a chief education officer say recently that LEAs had lacked any system-

atic measure of the performance of primary schools since the abolition of the 11-plus.

The Government seems to believe that league tables are primarily tools for individual consumer choice. This is nonsense, at least for most people in most places. What people want is not a notional choice of school or hospital, but a real assurance that the school and hospital down the road are good ones. This is the responsibility of the State and league table information should be used as the tool to discharge it.

That is why all the fuss about the Blair family's choice of school for their son managed to miss the real issue. It should be taken for granted that parents seek to give their children the best education available to them. The real hypocrisy is to pretend otherwise. The public policy issue is why so many urban schools should be dreaded by parents. It should be inconceivable for the banner of quality and standards not to be held by the party which believes in using the State to provide key public services.

What all this means is that Labour has to position itself as the determined, even ruthless, apostle of public service quality. It must be prepared to engage with all the obstacles and interests in the way. At a moment when the Conservatives are promising that their public service reforms are complete, Labour needs to carve out a distinctive agenda that amounts to more than putting a few clocks back a bit. Decent public services for all cost money. With a new tax battle already in sight, it might just be that people will be more ready to meet this cost if they can see that Labour means business on quality.

● The author is MP for Cannock and Burnwood



Tony Blair in Gateshead last week: the row about his choice of school for his son missed the point

Young lose their voice

The National Youth Agency is facing the axe at the worst possible time

For the past decade or more, young people have been stealing cars, taking drugs, rioting in the streets, dropping out of school and engaging in countless other nefarious activities. Citizens throughout the land are outraged. What, they are asking, is the Government going to do about it?

Conventional wisdom has suggested that "they'll grow out of it": as soon as teenagers get a job, buy a house, have a family, they will become solid members of the community.

But these so-called stabilising influences are no longer on offer in many parts of the country. By last summer, some 180,000 16 and 17-year-olds had no job or training place, and were not in full-time education. More than 150,000 young adults find themselves homeless each year. Almost half of all recorded drug offences are committed by people under 21, while 25,000 pupils are excluded annually from school.

As a consequence, youngsters are becoming desperate. They call the Samaritans at the rate of one every four minutes. Young people account for 13 per cent of all suicides. The peak age for offending has risen from 15 to 18. Far from growing out of their problems, disaffected young people are turning into marginalised adults.

It is hard to reconcile the Government's myriad pledges on young people with its actions. In particular, I fear the outcome of the Department for Education's stated intention to abolish the National Youth Agency, the only nationwide focus for youth work.

As you might expect from a body that is genuinely representative, the NYA has been critical, as well as supportive, of government policy. Unlike many of its European partners, this country does not have a Minister for Youth; issues are handled by a variety of government departments. The NYA was supposed to fill that vacuum. Now, after just three years, it is scheduled for the chop.

But a national focus would not be the only casualty if the agency were to disappear. Much of its pioneering work on information for young people, international initiatives and training would also founder.

Training concerns me most. Youth workers, who are dealing with cases of drug abuse, truancy, homelessness and juvenile crime, need professional training. At the moment, this training is rigorously controlled by the NYA, with the endorsement process funded by the Government. If that process is thrown to the market, some small organisations will not be able to afford it at all, others will cut back, while larger employers may set up their own procedures.

The result will be off-the-peg training dominated by financial pressures. Practical activities will predominate, valuable work on counselling, equal opportunities and skills will be lost.

Around 1.5 million young people use the youth services, yet their views and needs are consistently and invidiously ignored. They need a national voice.

MARTIN FREEDMAN

● The author is a member of the Executive Board of the National Youth Agency

Optimism on South Africa's campuses

Stuart J. Saunders rebuts criticism that the university system is sliding into chaos

South Africans have been somewhat bemused by a tendency in certain sections of the British press to applaud the "miracle" of our peaceful transition to democracy — and then predict a wholesale slide into chaos.

R.W. Johnson's article on South African universities (Education, January 9) is part of this pattern. Central to this argument is the thesis that a group of "long-suffering but distinctly middle-aged" white academics is all that remains to hold the line between quality and decline in South Africa's best universities. The other universities have either failed to break the mould of segregation or are teetering on the brink of collapse as a consequence of "open admission" policies and student protest. In short, according to Mr Johnson, all roads lead to ruin.

Most people involved in managing various aspects of South Africa's transition to democracy see things rather differently. Without underestimating the challenges ahead, we tend to look back at the extent and success of change over the past decade, under extraordinarily difficult circumstances, and so approach the future with confidence.

It is also true that South Africans are undertaking what is probably

the world's most complex transition to democracy. We live in a country where almost every contemporary political fault-line criss-crosses our social fabric: race, ethnicity, class, religion and cultural differences. It has become a local cliché to describe ourselves as the world in one country.

There are various reasons for our comparative success to date, but these lie beyond the scope of this article.

One, however, is relevant. A key reason for our relatively positive prognosis (compared, for example, with certain states in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union) lies in the variety, vibrancy and autonomy of institutions outside the State. These institutions — such as the press and the universities — provide an essential underpinning for our emerging democracy by distributing power and influence throughout society. Although none of these institutions emerged unscathed from apartheid, several succeeded in building international reputations of quality, and a robust, often defiant independence that sustained the value of an open society during the darkest days of authoritarian rule.

They are unlikely to go belly-up now.

There is, however, a risk of the perception developing, at home and abroad, that successful institutions can survive on their past record, as resources are redirected towards institutions attempting to establish capacity and quality, often from scratch.

Institutions that succeeded in building a robust, defiant independence during apartheid are unlikely to go belly-up now

While institution-building is certainly an important objective, it would be short-sighted in the extreme to allow institutions that are currently working well to decline, in the hope that comparable alternatives will arise in their place. Great institutions, especially universities, take decades to grow. They can be destroyed by neglect, however benign, in a fraction of the time.

Johnson's analysis also helpfully avoids the misleading juxtaposition

of the so-called "historically white" institutions and "historically black" institutions, definitions that obliterate the distinction between those universities that resisted the enforcement of racial policies, and those (black and white) that acquiesced, or supported them.

Instead, Johnson uses a less simplistic distinction between three

groups of universities: English-speaking, Afrikaans-speaking, and "historically black". Of the latter group, all except Fort Hare were established to entrench segregation in tertiary education.

Today the extent and success of the transition that has taken place within Johnson's "old English-speaking liberal universities" are largely taken for granted. In contrast, the tentative steps towards change currently being initiated by universities in the second group

attract the same attention as a Damascus conversion, while the third group finds itself on the side of the angels.

Although the "historically black universities" do have special needs, this is not, in the majority of cases, because of lower levels of state support than other universities during the apartheid years. On the contrary, an analysis of the funding situation over the past decade shows that in many cases the converse was — and remains — true.

While these universities do bear a major burden of the expectations of our people for higher education, and while they have students who are unable to find the money to pay for tuition and residence fees or books — so do R.W. Johnson's old English-speaking universities. At the University of Cape Town, for example, more than half of the first-year enrolment will be black during 1995. The same trend is clear in all the other old English-speaking liberal universities, which will continue to play a critical role in South Africa's development.

It is in them that most research is being done — and we will ensure that this continues. It is in them

that increasing numbers of black South Africans are being trained and educated — and this trend will continue. It is in them that a solid core of good academics of all races are maintaining and building an ethic of scholarship to secure the quality of tertiary education for the future, despite the serious erosion of state funding.

South African universities do face an uncertain future. This is nothing new. Universities have done so for all recorded history, from the Academy of Plato, and from the time of Bologna, Oxford and Paris. The South African Government has appointed a commission to inquire into and report on the future of higher education. We shall do what we can to contribute constructively to the commission's work to ensure a vibrant system of higher education.

We approach the future with confidence, with enthusiasm and with determination. In the spirit that South Africans shared on May 10 last year, when the presidential inauguration took place at the Union Buildings. We believe we shall succeed and weather the storms that R.W. Johnson rightly sees ahead. We are not fair-weather sailors.

● The author is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town

George Turnbull reports on a pioneering scheme to create an international centre designed to prepare students for global careers in the 21st century

Language with no barriers

William Shakespeare was only 11 when Dartford Grammar School for Boys first opened its doors in a room which stood on pillars over the local market. The school no longer stands aloof from the world of commerce, and is now widely tipped to be the first to win government funding to create a centre of excellence for modern languages.

The school would receive up to £100,000 in grants for capital improvements, which would have to be matched by funding from industry. That sum has already been secured as Dartford puts the finishing touches to its proposal to win "language college" status through the opening of an international centre to prepare students for careers in the developing global markets of the 21st century.

An annual grant of £90,000 will help with the running costs of the centre and the wear and tear on the state-of-the-art technology re-

quired for such a venture to succeed. Industry will benefit from its investment, as will the local community.

The facilities at the centre will be made available in the evenings and during school holidays so that the satellite, computer and video-conferencing equipment may be utilised fully. The multi-media library envisaged will contain international cultural and business information on companies and countries throughout Europe and the Middle East. The school hopes to develop and market distance-learning packages, which will also enable its own students to learn additional or minority languages through home study.

Dartford already enjoys a high record of achievement for languages in GCSE examinations and currently offers courses in French, German and Spanish. An examined course in contemporary European studies is also compulsory for all lower-sixth students.



Learning French at Dartford: languages will constitute one fifth of the timetable for all students

Assuming that language college status is granted, which it could be in a matter of weeks, the school will also offer Italian, Russian, Japanese and Arabic. Languages will constitute 20 per cent of the timetable for all students between 12 and 14, and for many right

through to 16. Tony Smith, the headmaster, says: "Students currently have a working knowledge of two foreign languages but in future the target will be three."

The school has 900 boys and is heavily oversubscribed, although there is some room for expansion

in the upper school. These extra places may be filled by students from overseas, as it is the schools' intention to be a truly international centre for learning.

It is already twinned for exchanges with schools in France, Germany, The Netherlands, Swit-

zerland, Georgia and the Czech Republic. And work experience exchanges are provided through twinning arrangements in Rotterdam, Basle and Prague.

"The international dimension is important," says Mr Smith. "It reflects in our own area. In recent years, our manufacturing industries have gradually disappeared. But now, as part of the East Thames Gateway Initiative, Dartford is the most important international development area in the UK. We want to be part of that development for the long-term interests of our students and the community."

As a result, the school believes, the ability to communicate in another language is crucial. But which one? "That we don't know," says Mr Smith. "So we need to develop the skills in our young people to learn language to the point where they can understand and be understood in a number of different languages, as required. With the use of distance-learning packages our students will be able to do that. At the moment there is a tendency for formal teaching methods to hold them back. We need to move on from this situation and offer more flexible opportunities for progress to be made."

The specialist school concept is not new and was originally imported from the United States, where "magnet" schools have operated successfully for many years. There it is possible for students to specialise in almost any area, including medicine, aeronautics, policing, firefighting, and becoming an FBI agent.

In this country, the Government's new language venture is part of a wider initiative to extend its current specialist school philosophy — the City Technology College — into other schools in the state sector. With £60 million of funding available over the next three years, it is expected that most of the schools will specialise in technology, mathematics and science, although modern languages have been added to the initiative and sport is likely to follow.

Dartford Grammar was already going in that direction, and the international centre will be created regardless of the final decision on the school's proposal. The £100,000 from industry is secure but with structural changes required to the school to accommodate the centre, the grants from Government would help this to happen more quickly.

George Turnbull is Editor of Language Matters, published by the Associated Examining Board.

Tracing proceeds of stolen gold

Brinks Ltd v Abu-Saleh and Others
Before Mr Justice Jacob
[Judgment January 17]

Before a convicted robber, or a "launderer" of money derived from robbery, could resist a summary judgment at the suit of the party robbed, under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, he had to adduce evidence, other than that adduced by him at his criminal trial, which raised a fair or reasonable probability of his having a real or bona fide defence to the claim: a defence that was practically moonshine would not do.

Mr Justice Jacob so held in the Chancery Division, in granting the plaintiff, Brinks Ltd, declaratory relief and interim orders against Gordon John Parry, the thirty-second defendant, and Brian Henry Reader the thirty-seventh defendant, convicted respectively as a robber and a launderer concerned in the Brinks Mat gold robbery at Heathrow in 1983.

Mr Richard Spearman for the plaintiff, Mr David Beard for Mr Parry, Mr Anthony Jackson, solicitor, for Mr Reader.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that in November 1983 gold worth £27 million, of which the plaintiff had been bailee, had been stolen. Many of the robbers and handlers involved had been caught and convicted. The last appeal in criminal cases had been dismissed

on March 11, 1994. The civil trial was set to begin on April 25 and was expected to be substantial.

A summary under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, seeking summary judgment, was now contested by two of the 57 defendants. First, both relied upon delay as precluding relief under Order 14, substantial, in the case of Mr Reader, his appeal against conviction having been dismissed in 1987 or 1988.

But if there was no defence to the claim, or if the defendants could not show there was an issue or question in dispute that ought to be tried, or that there ought for some other reason to be a trial of the claim, delay by itself was irrelevant and an albeit late application for judgment under Order 14 might, as here, be commensurate as saving both the extra costs and time involved in a full trial.

Next, the defendants sought to rely on section 11(2)(a) of the Civil Evidence Act 1968, which envisaged the possibility that they might in civil proceedings prove their convictions to have been wrong.

But in order to succeed, they needed more than simply a retrial on the same evidence; they needed, at least, to show that new evidence, not given at the criminal trial, would be called: see *Hunter v Chief Constable of the West*

Midlands (1982) AC 529. In the absence of such new evidence, a defence would be an abuse of process.

It was, however, clear that the burden of proof upon an applicant for judgment under Order 14 was heavy: he would fail if there was "a fair or reasonable probability of the defendants' having a real or bona fide defence": see Lord Justice Ackner in *Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas (Suisse) SA v Costa de Nary* (1984) 1 Lloyd's Rep 21, 23 or "if what the defendant says [is] credible": see Lord Justice Lloyd in *Standard Chartered Bank v Yacoub* (unreported, August 3, 1990, CA Transcript No 503).

Lord Lindley had said it no differently in *Codd v Delap* (1905) 92 LT 510, 511, when saying that for Order 14 to apply, the defence had to be practically moonshine.

Mr Reader had served a defence taking the point that the certificate of conviction and the indictment had not positively said that the gold he had handled was that of Brinks Mat, so it could have been some other gold; but as he advanced no positive case that it was, and there had been ample material linking the gold he handled with that stolen from Brinks, his Lordship regarded that defence as no more than a hint of moonshine.

An interim payment of £5 million would accordingly be ordered.

Mr Parry's next point was that the sum claimed against him went well beyond the £4.4 million specified in the counts on which he was convicted; but he had not adduced any evidence in relation to the Brinks Mat gold, so the excess was the same as for the £4.4 million, to give him leave to defend the excess would effectively allow him to relitigate his failed criminal defence.

Further, some at least of the money in question had been derived from Brinks' gold, so he held it on constructive trust for the plaintiff. It was settled law that if a trustee misapplied trust assets with his own money, to the extent that the two could not be distinguished, they belonged to the trust, the onus of distinguishing the two lying on the wrongly acting trustee: *In re Tilley's Will Trusts* (1967) Ch 1179.

In the result, his Lordship was satisfied that the plaintiff was entitled to the declaratory relief sought, to an order for payment in respect of the Barclays Bank account holding about £800,000, and to an interim payment of £2 million in respect of damages, equitable recovery and interest.

Solicitors: Shaw & Croft, Jones & Co, Jeffrey Gordon & Co, Battersea.

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v British Telecommunications plc
Before Mr Justice Dyson
[Judgment January 19]

While a payment received in respect of a continuous supply within the meaning of regulation 23(1a) of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations (SI 1985 No 886) had to constitute consideration for that supply if the recipient was to be chargeable to tax upon its receipt, mistakes or overpayments credited to subsequent invoices in respect of continuous supplies did not constitute consideration for those services.

Mr Justice Dyson so held in the Queen's Bench Division, when dismissing an appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise against the decision on April 28, 1993 of a value-added tax tribunal which had allowed the appeal of British Telecom plc against an assessment for output tax.

The proceedings arose when it was discovered that some BT customers, deliberately or unintentionally, had paid more than was stated on the particular quarterly invoice.

Where the customer had informed BT that the overpayment had been deliberate, BT accounted for VAT output tax on the amount of overpayment. Otherwise, and unless repayment was requested, BT

credited the overpayment to the customer and took it into account when calculating the sum payable on the next quarterly invoice. It did not account for the output tax on the overpayment until the next quarter's invoice was issued.

On a subsidiary issue the court said that the tribunal should have directed that the assessment had been valid in so far as it related to deliberate overpayments made by customers who had not declared their intention to do so.

Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for the commissioners; Mr David Milne, QC and Ms Julie Anderson for BT.

MR JUSTICE DYSON said that it was the commissioners' case that the overpayment became subject to output tax at the time of receipt. It was submitted that overpaid monies in respect of future services when it appropriated the money as payment on account of future services.

It was immaterial that the customer did not know about or consent to such appropriation and it was irrelevant whether the overpayment was consideration. The commissioners asked what was the nature of the overpayment if it was not in respect of a supply unless both supplier and customer agreed to treat it as such. If a customer made a payment by cheque, holding that a payment made in respect of continuous services had to be consideration if

supplies by an act of appropriation.

The supplier might purport to receive the payment in respect of future services but the payment had not been so made. The answer to the commissioners' question was that the overpayment was simply a payment made under mistake of fact.

In reaching his decision his Lordship had derived assistance as to the meaning of the phrase "a payment in respect of supplies" from a passage in the judgment of Lord Justice Bingham in *Customs and Excise Commissioners v Faith Construction Ltd* (1989) STC 539, 540.

His Lordship did not accept that BT appropriated the mistaken payment, as the right to appropriate only arose where several debts were due from debtor to creditor and where the creditor or debtor might appropriate payment to one debt rather than another.

Since there had been no debt in respect of future supplies until an invoice had been issued there could be no right to appropriate the mistaken payment as payment on account.

After considering the Sixth Council Directive of the European Community (77/388/EEC) (SI 1977 L445 pl) and relevant decisions of the European Court, his Lordship said that the tribunal had been correct in holding that a payment made in respect of continuous services had to be consideration if

the recipient were to be chargeable to tax upon receipt of the payment.

The crucial point to be had in mind was that only a supply of services for a consideration was subject to VAT (article 21 of the Sixth Directive) and that the taxable amount in respect of services was, subject to immaterial exceptions, the consideration that had been obtained or was to be obtained from the customer (article 11(1)).

For a supply of services to be taxable there had to be a direct link between the service provided and the consideration received. His Lordship said, agreeing with the submission of BT, that there was no direct link between a payment in respect of continuing supplies not yet provided and those services, unless the customer agreed that his payment should be credited to a future invoice in respect of those services.

There could be no such link where a customer had made an unintentional overpayment and had not subsequently agreed to allocate that payment to any particular future supply. It followed that the making of an unintentional payment was not consideration and was not payment within the meaning of article 10.2. Accordingly his Lordship's interpretation of regulation 23(1a) conformed to the meaning of that article.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise, Mr A. Whitfield.

Community charge committal

Regina v Preston Justices and Another, Ex parte McCosh
Before Mr Justice Turner
[Judgment December 2]

Justices were not obliged to exhaust all possibilities of recovering unpaid community charge before making a suspended committal order under regulation 41(3) of the Community Charges (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations (SI 1989 No 438).

Mr Justice Turner so held in the Queen's Bench Division in refusing an application by Yvonne McCosh for judicial review of the decision on March 17, 1993 of Preston Justices to issue a warrant for the commitment of the applicant, suspended on terms that she pay a weekly sum in respect of her non-payment of community charge to the authority, and of the decision of Preston Borough Council on March 17, 1993 to seek that committal.

The justices had found that the failure to pay under the liability order was due to her culpable neglect.

Mr Leslie Thomas for the ap-

plicant, Mr Robin Tam for the justices.

MR JUSTICE TURNER said that the sole point of challenge was that in light of previous decisions of the court, it was well established that it was an improper exercise of the power to commit under either regulation 41(3)(a) or (b), if all other methods of obtaining payment had not first been tried and exhausted.

His Lordship reviewed the case law including *R v Birmingham Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Mansell* (1988) 87 LGR 82. While that case involved the enforcement of rating arrears, no difference in principle had been brought to his Lordship's attention between that enforcement regime and that of community charge. His Lordship said that that case was at odds with the principle which the applicant sought to establish.

When Parliament approved the 1989 Regulations it had done so in the knowledge of the long standing practice of the courts. The principle of *stare decisis* applied.

The justices had a discretion on the evidence available to them what order they could properly make. They were not obliged in the

proper exercise of that discretion to exhaust all possibilities of recovery otherwise than making a suspended committal order before making such an order.

The principles which governed the proper exercise of discretion when a charging authority was seeking to proceed under regulation 41(3)(a) or (b) were different.

The long standing practice of the courts in regard to suspended committal as opposed to immediate committal recognised the coercive effect of the former and the punitive effect of the latter. The cases in which that distinction had become blurred or extinguished appeared to have been wrongly decided and were probably the result of selective citation of authority.

There was no difference in principle between the exercise of the power to suspend committal under the regulations and the power to suspend in the case of any other power to recover civil debt. In the event the application would be refused.

Solicitors: Jeff Brailsford Rimmer & Co, Preston; Treasury Solicitor.

Challenge to order

B v Secretary of State for Social Security
Before Mr Justice Thorpe
[Judgment December 21]

Judicial review was the proper means by which to challenge a deduction from earnings order made by the Child Support Agency on the ground that the welfare of children likely to be affected by the order had not been considered.

Mr Justice Thorpe so held in a reserved judgment in the Family Division, dismissing the father's appeal against the decision by Colchester Justices on September 14, 1994 of an appeal against a deduction from earnings order made pursuant to the Child Support Act 1991.

Section 2 of the 1991 Act provided: "Where, in any case which falls to be dealt with under this Act, the secretary of state or any child support officer is considering the exercise of any discretionary power conferred by this Act, he shall have regard to the welfare of any child likely to be affected by his decision."

Mr Nicholas Mostyn and Mr Nicholas Lockett for the father; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Mark

Shaw for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE THORPE said that the father's principal ground of complaint before the justices had been that the Child Support Agency had failed to consider the welfare principle in making the deduction from earnings order and that, therefore, the order was defective.

The justices had decided that there was no evidence that the agency had failed to consider the welfare principle.

The secretary of state contended any assertion that a duty under section 2 of the 1991 Act had not been observed was a public law question open to judicial review and confined to the High Court.

In his Lordship's judgment, it was quite clear that the remedy for a breach of duty under section 2 was to apply to the Divisional Court and not to the justices.

Therefore, the justices had erred in holding that a deduction from earnings order would be defective if the secretary of state failed to exercise his discretion under section 2 of the 1991 Act.

Solicitors: Sparling Benham & Brough, Colchester; Solicitor, Department of Social Security.

Local connection

Regina v Slough Borough Council, Ex parte Khan and Another
Before Mr Roger Toulson
[Judgment January 19]

A housing authority, before referring a homeless applicant for accommodation to another council, first had to address all possible bases for finding a local connection with its own district as set out in section 61 of the Housing Act 1985.

Mr Roger Toulson, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so stated when granting an application for judicial review by Sarwar Dad Khan and Aziz Begum of a decision of December 24, 1993 by Slough Borough Council that they were homeless, in priority need and not intentionally homeless but that it had no duty to house them because they had no local connection with the borough.

Mr Donald Broatch for the applicants; Mr Christopher Baker for the council.

HIS LORDSHIP said that there were four possible bases for a local connection in section 61: residence, employment, family association or special circumstances.

The applicants had argued that the decision letter had failed to address the question of family association. It stated simply that there was no local connection "because the applicants had not secured accommodation for six months or more in the borough".

The authority had subsequently urged the court by affidavit to consider the substance not the form of the letter, but his Lordship adopted a more rigorous approach. The applicants were living in Slough and had some family association.

The letter had addressed residence and in language suggesting the decision had been made exclusively on that basis. It was therefore flawed. The authority should reconsider the case.

On the applicant's evidence there were a number of relatives, some with a long past connection with the borough. His Lordship noted, however, that it was not a relative's connection with a borough, but the length and nature of an applicant's connection with the borough through relatives there which was decisive.

Solicitors: Hetherington & Co, Slough; Mr John Bell, Slough.

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Further particulars may be obtained from the Director of Personnel Services, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, where applications (3 copies) in the case of overseas applicants, giving the names and addresses of three referees, should be lodged on or before 31st March 1995.

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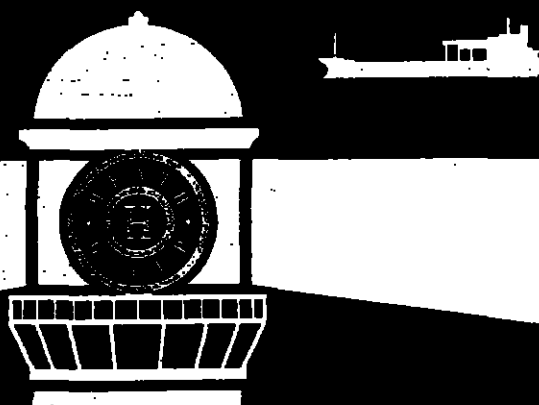
The Junior School is for boys and girls from three to seven and The Upper School is for children from eight to thirteen. Parents who wish their children to sit the entry test or who are interested in a place for a younger child should contact: The Admissions Secretary, Devonshire House School, 2 Ainslie Road, Hammersmith, London W6 6AD. Tel: 071-835 1916.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Yield %	P/E	Company	Price	Change	Yield %	P/E
BANKS					PHARMACEUTICALS				
Barclays Bank	125.00	+0.25	4.8	12.5	AstraZeneca	12.50	+0.10	3.2	15.0
Bank of Scotland	110.00	+0.10	4.5	11.0	Beecham	11.00	+0.05	3.0	14.0
Bank of Ireland	105.00	+0.15	4.2	10.5	Bristol Myers Squibb	10.50	+0.08	3.1	13.5
Bank of America	100.00	+0.20	4.0	10.0	Glaxo	10.00	+0.12	3.3	14.5
DISTRIBUTORS					Roche	9.50	+0.07	3.4	13.0
Woolworth	15.00	+0.10	5.0	15.0	Schering-Plough	9.00	+0.06	3.5	12.5
Debenhams	14.00	+0.05	4.8	14.0	Wellcome	8.50	+0.04	3.6	12.0
Next	13.00	+0.08	4.6	13.0	SPRITS, WINES & CIDERS				
Primark	12.00	+0.06	4.4	12.0	Heavenly Bodies	1.50	+0.02	2.0	1.5
ASDA	11.00	+0.04	4.2	11.0	Heavenly Bodies	1.40	+0.01	1.9	1.4
BREWERIES					Heavenly Bodies	1.30	+0.01	1.8	1.3
Carlsberg	18.00	+0.10	5.5	18.0	Heavenly Bodies	1.20	+0.01	1.7	1.2
Guinness	17.00	+0.08	5.2	17.0	Heavenly Bodies	1.10	+0.01	1.6	1.1
Heineken	16.00	+0.06	5.0	16.0	Heavenly Bodies	1.00	+0.01	1.5	1.0
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					SUPPORT SERVICES				
Unilever	25.00	+0.15	4.0	25.0	Unilever	25.00	+0.15	4.0	25.0
Johnson & Johnson	24.00	+0.12	3.8	24.0	Johnson & Johnson	24.00	+0.12	3.8	24.0
Novartis	23.00	+0.10	3.6	23.0	Novartis	23.00	+0.10	3.6	23.0
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT					PRINTING & PAPER				
Arrol-Johnston	15.00	+0.05	4.0	15.0	Arrol-Johnston	15.00	+0.05	4.0	15.0
James Watson	14.00	+0.04	3.8	14.0	James Watson	14.00	+0.04	3.8	14.0
James Watson	13.00	+0.03	3.6	13.0	James Watson	13.00	+0.03	3.6	13.0
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES					PROPERTY				
Rolls Royce	12.00	+0.05	4.0	12.0	Rolls Royce	12.00	+0.05	4.0	12.0
Rolls Royce	11.00	+0.04	3.8	11.0	Rolls Royce	11.00	+0.04	3.8	11.0
Rolls Royce	10.00	+0.03	3.6	10.0	Rolls Royce	10.00	+0.03	3.6	10.0
FOOD MANUFACTURERS					TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
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Unilever	24.00	+0.12	3.8	24.0	Unilever	24.00	+0.12	3.8	24.0
Unilever	23.00	+0.10	3.6	23.0	Unilever	23.00	+0.10	3.6	23.0
ELECTRICITY					TEXTILES & APPAREL				
British Energy	15.00	+0.05	4.0	15.0	British Energy	15.00	+0.05	4.0	15.0
British Energy	14.00	+0.04	3.8	14.0	British Energy	14.00	+0.04	3.8	14.0
British Energy	13.00	+0.03	3.6	13.0	British Energy	13.00	+0.03	3.6	13.0
ELECTRONIC & ELECT					OTHER FINANCIAL				
British Telecom	12.00	+0.05	4.0	12.0	British Telecom	12.00	+0.05	4.0	12.0
British Telecom	11.00	+0.04	3.8	11.0	British Telecom	11.00	+0.04	3.8	11.0
British Telecom	10.00	+0.03	3.6	10.0	British Telecom	10.00	+0.03	3.6	10.0
HEALTHCARE					RETAILERS, FOOD				
Glaxo	10.00	+0.08	3.3	10.0	Glaxo	10.00	+0.08	3.3	10.0
Glaxo	9.50	+0.07	3.4	9.5	Glaxo	9.50	+0.07	3.4	9.5
Glaxo	9.00	+0.06	3.5	9.0	Glaxo	9.00	+0.06	3.5	9.0
HOUSEHOLD GOODS					RETAILERS, GENERAL				
Debenhams	14.00	+0.05	4.8	14.0	Debenhams	14.00	+0.05	4.8	14.0
Debenhams	13.00	+0.04	4.6	13.0	Debenhams	13.00	+0.04	4.6	13.0
Debenhams	12.00	+0.03	4.4	12.0	Debenhams	12.00	+0.03	4.4	12.0
INSURANCE					WATER				
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Prudential	14.00	+0.04	3.8	14.0	Prudential	14.00	+0.04	3.8	14.0
Prudential	13.00	+0.03	3.6	13.0	Prudential	13.00	+0.03	3.6	13.0
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Company	Price	Change	Yield %	P/E
British Telecom	15.00	+0.05	4.0	15.0
British Telecom	14.00	+0.04	3.8	14.0
British Telecom	13.00	+0.03	3.6	13.0

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Company	Price	Change	Yield %	P/E
British Telecom	10.00	+0.05	4.0	10.0
British Telecom	9.50	+0.04	3.8	9.5
British Telecom	9.00	+0.03	3.6	9.0

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Company	Price	Change	Yield %	P/E
British Telecom	10.00	+0.05	4.0	10.0
British Telecom	9.50	+0.04	3.8	9.5
British Telecom	9.00	+0.03	3.6	9.0

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Company	Price	Change	Yield %	P/E
British Telecom	12.00	+0.05	4.0	12.0
British Telecom	11.00	+0.04	3.8	11.0
British Telecom	10.00	+0.03	3.6	10.0

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: BAA (Q3), Continental Foods, Filtronic Comtek, Haynes Publishing, Property Trust, Radiant Metal Finishing, TR Smaller Companies Inv Trust, Winttrust, Zetters Group. Finals: Bulbough, Caldwell Investments, Motor World, St Andrew Trust. Economic statistics: Major British banking groups' mortgage lending (December).

TOMORROW

Interims: Adscene Group, Avromascan, Barnato Exploration, BCE Holdings, Bugdens, Edinburgh Small Companies Trust, Excalibur Group, Farepak, FI Group, Free State Development, Games Workshop, Union Square. Finals: Eastman Kodak, Fleming American Investment, Gardiner Group, Ivory & Sims Ltd. Economic statistics: Overseas direct investment (1993), monthly digest of statistics (January), agricultural income figures (1993), economic trends (January), economic trends annual supplement (1993), M0 figures (January - provisional).

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Bucknell Group, TR City of London. Finals: Heavitt Brewery, Standard Platforms. Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (November).

THURSDAY

Interims: Allied Leisure, Kleinwort High Income. Finals: Edinburgh Java Trust, Fyffes, Gartmore British Inc & Growth, P&P, Povair, Updown Investment Co. Economic statistics: UK official reserves (January).

FRIDAY

Interims: None scheduled. Finals: None scheduled. Economic statistics: Insolvency statistics (Q4), bankruptcy statistics (Q4), major banking groups' quarterly analysis of lending (Q4), full monetary statistics (including bank and building society balance sheets, bill turnover, statistics, lending secured on dwellings, official operations in the money market, sterling certificates of deposit, sterling commercial paper and credit business) (December).

COMPANIES

FINANCIAL

BAA thrives on crowded skies

BAA: A relatively quiet week for companies reporting will be dominated by today's third-quarter figures from BAA, the airports operator. Sir John Egan, chief executive, should provide evidence of the benefits for BAA of the crowded skies as more people travel by air and healthy spending levels continue at airport shops, regardless of the mood in the high street.

Mike Powell, at NatWest Securities, expects third-quarter pre-tax profits to advance to £65 million (£55 million), giving £327 million for the year to date. Earnings are predicted to climb to 4.7p (4.4p) a share. Market profit forecasts range from £61 million to £68 million.

BAA will benefit as its airports handled about 20.2 million passengers in the third quarter, representing an increase of 8.4 per cent over the comparative period. NatWest says revenue from airport charges will have risen in accordance with the current RPI minus 4 per cent formula to £73 million. However, there will probably be a slowing in the rate of growth in retail income per passenger as disruption continues from the extensive redevelopment of several of BAA's terminals. Income from retail activities is expected to continue to increase its share of total revenue, rising 9.5 per cent to £127 million. This is in spite of redevelopment disruption, expected to restrict third-quarter growth in retail income per passenger to 1.5 per cent.

NatWest retains a "hold" stance on the shares, as BAA's long-term growth in profitability is linked to a regulatory review of airport charges and permission to build the new Terminal Five at Heathrow airport.

Work on the new terminal would start in 1997 if approval is gained, with a public inquiry due this May.

GARDINER GROUP: NatWest Securities expects tomorrow's final pre-tax profits from the security systems distributor to slip to £3.5 million, against £4 million last time, as the effects of increased competition continue to take their toll on the group's margins. An improved interim dividend of 0.8p (0.73p) is predicted.

New title launches, including the life stories of Ayrton Senna and Michael Schumacher, should boost the publishing division.

ZETTERS GROUP: Today's interims from Zetters will provide further evidence of the extent to which the UK football pools industry is being hurt by the National Lottery. Vernons, Zetters' rival football pools company, has already announced redundancies as the lottery, which was introduced in November in a hail of publicity, diverted revenue and maintained a tight grip on the public's imagination. Zetters made interim profits of £421,000 last time. This time's half-year figures to end-September should be unaffected by

Sir John Egan, of BAA, wants approval for Heathrow's Terminal Five to underpin growth

Britain's latest gambling craze, though the story may be different from now on.

BUDGENS: The supermarket price wars will not have made life easy. NatWest Securities says deflation and attrition is likely to remain a feature that will undermine sales when the smaller supermarkets group reports tomorrow. However, the warm summer weather and extended opening hours at selected stores should have helped to underpin like-for-like sales. NatWest has pencilled in a modest rise in

interim pre-tax profits to £3.2 million (£3.1 million) on an FR33 basis. An unchanged 0.3p interim is forecast.

FYFFES: Michael Bourke, at Pannure Gordon, is looking for the Dublin-based fruit and vegetable distributor best known for its bananas, to unveil final pre-tax profits of £34 million (£31.8 million) when it reports on Thursday. An improved 1.5p (1.4p) interim is predicted. Fyffes should reveal steadier profits from bananas than its rival Geest, where supply was hit by

the severe tropical storms in the Windward Islands. But there may be lower investment income from the group's cash pile, which is still thought to stand at more than £50 million, in spite of a string of acquisitions in the year.

P&P: The computer services and training group should please the City with nearly doubled profits on Thursday. Pannure Gordon, the house broker, has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £7.9 million (£4.1 million). Market forecasts range from £6.8 million to £8 million.

Spotlight on interest rates

THIS could be a crunch week for interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic. In the US, the policy-making Federal Open Market Committee meets tomorrow and on Wednesday amid very strong speculation that the Fed will order the seventh rise in the Federal Funds rate since the beginning of last year.

In Britain, the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England hold their regular monthly meeting on Thursday to discuss interest rates. The City believes that recent figures, including last week's fourth quarter GDP figures, justify another rate rise. But it remains divided on whether the two men will wait until March in order to see whether December's buoyant growth and signs of price pressures continued in January.

To top it all, the Bundesbank meets on Thursday. Most commentators have assumed that the next move in German interest rates would be upwards. But Edgar Meister, Bundesbank board member, said on Friday that the bank may return to a variable rate repurchase agreement and was not interested in seeing a rise in interest rates. This was taken as a hint that at least some members of the policy-making council may favour an easing in rates, but others said it would be difficult for Germany to resist the pressure of rising rates in Britain and the US.

For Britain, the monthly monetary meeting will be the economic centrepiece of the week, particularly as it comes less than a week before the Bank of England publishes its Inflation Report. Previously, base rate rises have been timed to coincide with the report.

Other economic indicators this week include January figures for M0 narrow money supply today and the Purchasing Managers' Index on Wednesday. Official reserves figures are out on Thursday and the Halifax produces its latest house price index on Friday.

JANET BUSH

The Sunday Times: Buy: Babcock International, Neotronics, P&P, Rubicon. The Observer: Buy: P&P, Marks and Spencer, Tate & Lyle, Just Group. Hold: Mervier Swain, Misys. Independent on Sunday: Buy: Marweb, Watson & Philip, Allied Domecq, M&A. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy: Capital Radio, Capital Shopping Centres, P&P, Watson & Philip, Wyko, Stirling Petroleum ("for the hold").

LA CREME DE LA CREME

BBC

Secretary to Two Senior Business Affairs Executives Drama Business Affairs Department

Drama Business Affairs deals with all contractual and financial matters related to the BBC independently produced Drama programmes. A position has arisen for a secretary to assist two busy Senior Business Affairs Executives, who would be required to start work as soon as possible.

A secretary with a clear secretarial skills is sought to deal with the production and despatch of correspondence and legal agreements, answering the telephone, arranging diaries, meetings and travel arrangements as well as miscellaneous office duties.

It is essential that applicants have fast and accurate word processing skills (50 wpm minimum) and familiarity with Word for Windows, a good telephone manner and the ability to work under pressure. A sense of humour and a willingness to work as part of a closely knit team is also important.

Offered initially as a six month contract which may be renewable. Salary range £11,500 - £13,000 p.a. Based West London.

For further information please contact Dorothy Dwyer on 0181-576 1697.

For an application form send a postcard (quote ref. 1757/17) to BBC Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W12 7ZT. Tel: 0181-749 7000 Mincem. 0181-752 5151 by February 8th.

Application forms to be returned by February 13th.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Pell & Bales

Britain's leading telephone fundraising agency, providing fund raising, consultancy and research services to the voluntary sector requires a

P.A. TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

This demanding role within a young, fast-growing agency requires a person with energy, initiative and a proven track record and who is able to work in a fast-paced environment. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of administrative duties and will be required to travel extensively. Salary £17,000.

Mark Liddell on 0171 404 3833 for more details. Closing date for applications Monday 6th February. STRICTLY NO AGENCIES

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO ATTAIN THE EQUIVALENT OF A BUSINESS EDUCATION

If you are in your mid-20's, doing well in your second job, you can achieve this experience by working with a very active international merchant banker. Ambitious, organized, efficient PA/Sec needed to deal with CEOs and MDs of major enterprises in two dozen countries. Must be a self-starter, willing to make decisions and able to work under great pressure on occasions. Good sh. PC aptitude, preferably Windows. Small Kensington office. Salary negotiable.

No Agencies Please Fax CV to 0171 491 7577

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£15K TO WORK FOR EITHER DIRECTOR OF CARE OR LIAISON DIRECTOR

The British Diabetic Association funds research into diabetes and provides vital support for diabetics in the UK.

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This division provides the vital link between Head Office and our nationwide branch network. You will be responsible for a range of secretarial and administrative duties.

P.A. TO DIRECTOR OF CARE

This division provides all aspects of care for the diabetic community. You will be responsible for all secretarial duties, including monthly statistics for the division and organizing and taking minutes of some meetings.

You will have excellent communication and organizational skills, the ability to work on your own initiative and possess at least 3 years secretarial experience.

If you are interested in these positions please send CV, stating which position you prefer to: Jane Crowell, Personnel Manager, British Diabetic Association, 30 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD. Tel No: 071 222 1231.

Closing Date: 7th February 1995.

"A charity helping people with diabetes and supporting diabetes research"

Charity Reg Number 215359.

British Diabetic Association

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PA/ SECRETARY

£20,000

Merton Associates is one of the UK's leading Executive Search Consultants. Our Partners throughout director level people on behalf of a wide range of blue chip clients. We are seeking a PA for our Financial Services team.

A's have important and demanding roles, being involved in every facet of each search. They must have first class secretarial skills including fast accurate word processing (Word for Windows), be extremely organized and be able to handle the detail of a number of projects at the same time. They must have the confidence, tact and personality to deal with senior executives both as clients and as candidates.

Please reply, enclosing full CV, to Linda Barr, Merton Associates, Merton House, 70 Grafton Way, London W1P 6LE, or by fax on 0171 387 5324.

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If you have any of the above packages, we can offer you above average rates, regular work with blue chip companies, and free cross training on all popular packages.

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Fax: 071 831 2233 (Rec' Core)

PA - AGED 25-35

Name your salary - preferably above £23,000

Is there anybody out there who is London based, a non-smoker, (preferably not a Capricorn), a top Secretary/ PA and who wants to work as a member of a small, happy team in the Holborn Circus area?

I need somebody educated to A-level standard. Other essential requirements are accuracy, trustworthiness, a pleasant manner, well spoken and 100/60 skills.

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NO AGENCIES

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Working as part of a small team, ideally you will have a travel background with the ability to communicate with clients, arrange itineraries, proposals and quotes. A working knowledge of computer (WP5.1) and reservations systems together with up-to-date experience in office accounting is essential.

Please send CV to: Director of Sales, Ker & Downey Ltd, 18 Albemarle Street, London, W1X 3PA.

Last applications accepted 8th February

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

Busy Travel PR Agency in Victoria needs inflexible secretary with a minimum of three years' experience. Must be able to demonstrate initiative and enthusiasm coupled with an eye for detail. Word processing skills and fast accurate typing essential. Salary £16,000 subject to experience.

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Head Office, London

Shelter

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

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Ref. No. 100615, Reg. Charity No. 267776

This is a vitally important role within Shelter and comes at an exciting time following the recent appointment of a new Director, Chris Holmes.

The Director's Office is an extremely busy place as it is the centre of most activity within this campaigning organisation. Hard work and efficiency will be absolutely essential as you will take full responsibility for the smooth running of the office as well as providing the full range of PA duties. In addition you will service board and senior management meetings, be expected to respond sensitively to a wide range of enquiries and also deal with many financial matters relating to our work.

A senior secretary of the highest calibre, you will be an exceptional organiser, able to work on your own initiative and remain calm under pressure. With a minimum typing speed of 60 wpm and proficiency in word processing (preferably WordPerfect 5.1 or 6.0) you should have at least 5 years' experience of setting up and monitoring office systems. First-class communication and diplomacy skills are, of course, vital.

We offer good conditions of service, 28 days' annual leave and 2 fixed Shelter days.

Shelter aims to provide equality of opportunity, both through its work with homeless people and in recruiting the staff who contribute to that work. We welcome applications from all sections of the community regardless of race, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

For an application pack please telephone: 0171 824 8556 or 0171 730 0181 (24 hour answering service). Please quote reference: 322/80, the job title and where you saw the advertisement. Closing date: 7th February 1995. Interviews: Friday 17th February.

Ref. No. 100615, Reg. Charity No. 267776

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DIRECTORS SECRETARY

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Wonderful opportunity to join one of the UK's fastest growing IT service companies as secretary to busy Director of Marketing and Operations. Would suit lively personality with good organisational skills, an ability to cope under pressure and use initiative. Keyboard skills essential, shorthand desirable.

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Adaptable and flexible attitude, with accurate typing, good education, ability to work independently, and a keen interest in IT. Must be able to deal with people at all levels, have a good telephone manner, and be able to handle the detail of a number of projects at the same time. They must have the confidence, tact and personality to deal with senior executives both as clients and as candidates.

Salary range: £15,000-18,000 with benefits.

Send full cv. to: Box No 3181, by Friday 3rd February 1995.

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Good interpersonal skills, must appreciate and respond to customer needs. PC, design, language details.

Please send CV and latest resume to: 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 7

Filling the prescription for Friday night

For the sake of anyone planning a party, may I just offer this one piece of advice. Forget Fridays. These days, Friday evenings are for chilling out, turning on and staying in (if I may mix my vernacular with the most committed belt-tighteners surfing their way through the conveniently bite-sized portions served up by BBC 2 and Channel 4. From *Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)* to *Fantasy Football League* via *Ellen and Roseanne*, the only interruption broken is the arrival of the pizza delivery man.

But now it seems BBC 1 and ITV want a slice of the end-of-week action and by the look of *Dangerfield* and *Dr Finlay* they mean business. On paper, it's easy to write off *Dangerfield* (BBC 1) as a bad case of never mind the quality, feel the formula. But as the success of *Kavanagh QC* has shown, get it right and even the oldest formula can deliver. Some

say that *Dangerfield* is *Peak Practice* meets *Heartbeat*. It may have been something vaguely familiar about Nigel Hess's soundtrack, but to my mind it seemed more *The Expert* meets *Owen M.D.* But the point is that the BBC finally looks to have got it right. That said, Dr Paul Dangerfield (Nigel Le Vaillant) could well do for the male sex what Shirley Conran once did for hers. He may wear his underpants inside his trousers, but make no mistake — this man is Superman. He's good-looking, successful, runs a beautiful house in the country with matching teenage children — and not only does his own shopping but also does his own cooking. This is the really sickening part: no matter how many times his mobile phone rings, he never ever loses his temper.

Mind you, if we lesser male mortals knew that obliging scriptwriters would liberally scatter our



Matthew Bond

Hydro, Tannochbrae's idea of a good night out.

But Dr Stallard, I suspect, has tried her run perfectly. For in a bravely dark story with which to launch the third series, it became abundantly clear that the Doctors Finlay and Cameron have picked a wrong run to replace that nice Dr Neil. In fact, Dr McKenna (a horribly convincing Stuart McQuarrie) proved to be a monster —

unpleasant, unprofessional and not unfamiliar with the doctor's friend, the whisky bottle.

Pursuing the wife of a badly burnt war hero was never going to be the best of career moves. The question now is, is Tannochbrae ready for a female GPs? Given that the dramatic alternative is the long wait until sexual intercourse is discovered in 1963 (and probably even later in Tannochbrae) let's hope the answer is yes.

Down south, however, in a wartime Ghosts (BBC 1), they rather jumped the sexual starting gun — until, that is, the energetic, wedding-night consummation turned out to be less a case of thinking of England than sinking off it. Written and directed by Terry Johnson, *Blood and Water* was simply a delight.

Keeping his supernatural and spectacular twist until the end, Johnson littered his story with clues and red herrings. Cleverly mixing the real horror of shell-shock with the unreal horror of imagination, Johnson constantly tempted us to jump to the wrong conclusion. But as all good thrillers should, once the climax was revealed everything fell into place, or in this watery tale, place.

With beautifully judged performances from Paul Rhys, Moira Brooker and Ian Shaw as the not-quite-eternal triangle, the production was marred only by a brief spell of fairly supernatural-looking lip-synching and that ridiculous old cliché that ghosts don't appear in photographs. Who says so?

Finally, after seven years and 177 episodes, it was time to say farewell to Captain Jack-Luc Picard and the crew of the *Starship Enterprise*, as *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (Sky One) boldly went for the last time. Many, I know, will scoff, but others will mourn its passing, consoled only by the cer-

tain knowledge that there is no such word as "final" in the strange space-time continuum of *Star Trek* repeats.

The space-time continuum of the final two-part story, *All Good Things*, was a strange, strange beast. With shipboard romances coming and going in the twinkling of a transporter beam as Captain Picard singled-handedly set about saving humanity in three different time zones. I always knew he'd marry Dr Crusher.

Throughout a marathon run that has shown just what can be done if you throw enough money and writers at a good idea, Patrick Stewart, the former Royal Shakespeare Company actor, has been magnificent as Picard. His intergalactic journeys may be over, but let's hope not his transatlantic ones. Time to come home, Mr Stewart.

Lynne Truss is on holiday

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast with Paul Burden, Sara Couben and Heather Payton (29498)
- 7.00 Breakfast News (1806160)
- 9.05 Killy, Robert Killy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (3334858)
- 10.00 News (Ceebe), regional news and weather (1212276) 10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Magazine presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) (33584450)
- 12.00 News (Ceebe), regional news and weather (7759242) 12.05 Pebble Mill with Alan Titchmarsh (s) (3761189) 12.55 Regional News and weather (7814653)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceebe) and weather (91566)
- 1.30 Neighbours. (Telexed) (s) (9183332) 1.50 Timekeepers. Quiz with Bill Dod (s) (9184483)
- 2.15 Knots. Landing. American drama series (s) (945252) 3.00 Today's Gourmet. Jacques Pepin prepares his favourite summer menu (s) (9127)
- 3.30 Warner Brothers Cartoons. *Booby Hatch* and *The Bird Came C.O.D.* 3.45 *Badger and Badger*. A mix of live action and puppets (s) (5028295) 4.00 *Jackanory*. Joanne Lumley with Rosemary's tale *Who's a Clever Girl?* (s) (949553) 4.10 *The Legend of Prince Valiant*. (Ceebe) (s) (4992925) 4.35 Tomorrow's End. Science-fiction adventure (400552)
- 5.00 Newsround (939276) 5.10 Blue Peter celebrates the Chinese New Year — the Year of the Pig. (Ceebe) (s) (1057165)
- 5.35 Neighbours. (s) (171634)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceebe) and weather (363)
- 6.30 Regional news magazines (943)
- 7.00 Champion Telly Addict. The Browns, champions of 1993, meet the Bays family, winners in 1990 (s) (8103)
- 7.30 Watchdog. Includes a best topiary guide. (Ceebe) (s) (127)
- 8.00 EastEnders. (Ceebe) (s) (7856)
- 8.30 The Detective. Comedy series starring Jasper Carrott, Robert Powell and George Sewall. (Ceebe) (s) (3363)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceebe), regional news and weather (9059)
- 9.30 Panorama: Gerry Adams — the Man We Hate to Love. A profile of the Sinn Féin leader. (Ceebe) (967653)
- 10.15 Match of the Day — The Road to Wembley. Highlights of tonight's FA Cup fourth round match between Sheffield Wednesday and Wolverhampton Wanderers (555052)
- 1.20am Weather (877615)



Focus on film director Alan Parker (11.05pm)

- 11.05 Film 95 Special — Barry Norman Talks to Alan Parker. (Ceebe) (s) (376837)
- 11.35 Film: *Brainstorm* (1983) starring Christopher Walken and Natalie Wood. Science-fiction thriller about a device that can record emotions and transmit them to other people. Directed by Douglas Trumbull. (Ceebe) (82160)
- 1.20am Weather (877615)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
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CBI retracts warning on pay increases

By Philip Bassett and Graham Searjeant

THE Confederation of British Industry has made a last-minute attempt to avoid another rise in interest rates by telling the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England that its earlier fears of wage-inflation were mistaken.

Howard Davies, Director-General of the CBI, has written directly to Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, who are due to meet on Thursday to discuss whether a further rise in bank base rates is necessary to stop the economy generating higher inflation in a year or two's time. He has told them that inflationary pressures from pay deals in Britain are easing.

Within the next fortnight, the CBI is to scale down previously published preliminary figures from its Pay Databank monitor of companies' wage deals to show that pay settle-

ments are not rising as sharply as it had reported.

New independent surveys suggest, however, that pay deals are continuing on an upward trend. Most are still below the growth rate of the economy.

City economists expect the Governor to press for a further half-point rise in base rates to 0.75 per cent, although they are less certain that the Chancellor will agree to a rise this week. If not, they expect rates to rise in March.

David Wallon, of Goldman Sachs, says that the investment bank's model, which looks 20 months ahead, still predicts inflation rising without further rate rises, even though inflationary pressures have eased.

David Kern, of National Westminster Bank, says that rates will need to rise to 7.25 per cent by mid-year to con-

tain inflationary pressures, but might then fall.

Arguing against a further rise in base rates, Mr Davies urges the Bank and the Treasury not to interpret evidence on prices from the CBI's latest Industrial Trends survey as strong pressure on inflation needing to be choked off.

The CBI had said that pay awards were running at 3.4 per cent in manufacturing and at 4.3 per cent in the service sector, but subsequent evidence from other pay deals shows that these figures were too high. Independent pay analysts have, however, charted a rise in settlements since the autumn.

Support for scepticism on pay comes today in a survey from the EEF engineering employers showing that 70 per cent of pay deals in engineering in the last three months of 1994 were for rises of 3 per cent or less, and Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group, says today that fewer than 16 per cent of UK businesses are likely to give above-inflation pay rises this year.

The D&B survey of 1,350 companies concludes that pay deals will have little impact on inflation this year. Philip Mellor, of D&B, says: "As nine out of ten of the larger and medium-sized companies are keeping their pay rises to below 4 per cent, there are no signs that wage settlements this year will be inflationary."

However, a leading independent pay monitoring group today says that settlements are still rising. In its latest analysis of pay trends, Incomes Data Services says that two-thirds of deals so far in January are worth 3 per cent or more, with some big rises in the finance sector and the motor industry. Specifically casting doubt on CBI Databank figures, IDS says that the major upward pressures on pay are coming from rising inflation, stronger economic growth, high profitability and tax increases, as well as some sectoral problems of recruiting and keeping staff. It argues that settlements will rise to an average 3.5 per cent in coming months.

Change of tune, page 42



Stephen Johnson, of Mason Arch Games, with his Misfortune game, on show at Olympia

Toy trade fighting back after hard times

By Victoria McKee

STEPHEN JOHNSON, a board game inventor, hopes to profit from misfortune. So does the toy trade gathered this week for the British International Toy and Hobby Fair, at London's Olympia.

Mr Johnson, a former financial adviser, was catapulted into the middle of the M4 when a car hit him while he was on his hard shoulder. He decided to turn his experience into a humorous game, *Misfortunes*, which has had promising initial sales of 300, at £29.99, through Hamleys since November.

The toy industry has emerged leaner and meaner after a series of setbacks, including being buffeted by the recession, rebuffed by a generation for whom childhood ends earlier, and bewildered by the growth of electronic games at its expense. Now the industry is fighting back in a UK toy market valued at £1.6 billion by the British Toy and Hobby Manufacturers' Association.

The big multinational groups Mattel and Hasbro are bigger and stronger after buying or merging with other companies. Mattel expects to announce \$3.5 billion turnover worldwide for 1994, according to Denis Horton, group marketing director.

V-Tech, the Japanese specialist in electronic learning aids — computers for kids — grew 30 per cent last year, cornering half of the £53 million UK market.

The few medium-sized British companies still holding their own, such as Bluebird, Hornby, Cassidy's, Britains and John Adams, have done so by consolidating and concentrating on market niches.

There are 101 new companies among the 382 exhibitors at the Toy and Hobby Fair, 23 more in total than last year. Most are aware of the need to keep prices down and quality high, with "pocket-money collectable" items such as Bluebird's Polly Pocket range among the most successful volume sales.

Advances in technology are helping to keep prices down and play-value high. Mattel's Denis Horton says: "Three years ago, we brought out Teen Talk Barbie, who could say six phrases and cost £16.99. Now, we're launching Super Talk Barbie, who can say 100,000 things and will cost the same."

Deutsche Bank debtor on the brink

By Colin Nabbrough
WORLD TRADE
CORRESPONDENT

THE GERMAN engineering group whose shares were suspended on Friday, Klockner-Humboldt-Deutz (KHD), is today expected to confirm that dramatic measures are needed to save the company from insolvency or break-up.

The Cologne-based company, which specialises in heavy plant, large-scale diesel motors and farm machinery, has been dogged by operating losses and big debts, despite heavy restructuring by Kajo Neunkirchen, the company doctor which was brought in last year to rescue Metallgesellschaft, the German metals and engineering group, from bankruptcy.

The renewed and serious problems at KHD have come as a fresh blow for Deutsche Bank, its main backer, which is also having to become much of the burden of the costly Metallgesellschaft rescue.

The suspension of KHD shares today was considered by German analysts to be a pointer to the seriousness of the problems, because it gave the management four whole days to try to thrash out a solution acceptable to the banks.

The share suspension followed a 20 per cent price drop early on Friday.

Reports have suggested that the company had built up bank debts of DM1.3 billion on a turnover last year of DM3 billion. KHD has denied that it had a liquidity shortage of DM500 million.

The company managed to break even in 1993 because of asset sales, but has continued to make operating losses as parts of its business suffered from the collapse of the former Soviet bloc.

Speculation on the fate of the company focuses on its being forced to file for protection from its creditors, under Germany's equivalent of the American Chapter 11 rules, which seek to keep the firm going, or on the breaking up and sale of the component businesses.

Another option is for KHD to write down its capital before turning to its shareholders for new funds. However, industry sources said that the failure of the company's restructuring has raised the question of whether it is worth saving.

Industry divided on Euro opt-out

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government's insistence on maintaining its Maastricht social chapter opt-out is put under pressure today by evidence showing that as many as a quarter of company managers would like Britain to abandon it.

Ministers are determined to sustain the opt-out, which was negotiated by the Prime Minister, although European Commission leaders have made it clear that they would like it to be dropped when member states meet for the planned inter-governmental conference on Europe next year.

A new survey by the Industrial Society, which promotes good practice at work, finds that 25 per cent of those questioned would like Britain to withdraw from the opt-out. Although more people support the opt-out, at 33 per cent, the scale

of opposition is surprising, especially since a further 20 per cent remain undecided.

The survey of a sample of 590 managers shows that some are worried about the present level of European influence, but what the society describes as a "significant proportion" want more harmonisation of employee consultation arrangements across EU member states. And 31 per cent back that in direct contradiction to claims by business leaders and ministers that there is sustained opposition to harmonised consultation.

Indeed, almost two-thirds of the managers surveyed maintain that the level of European influence makes no difference to their present consultation arrangements, although they are fearful of the growth of such influence over the next two to three years.

Insurers' tax relief blocked

By Jonathan Prynn, Political Reporter

LABOUR backbench MPs have blocked a Bill that would have brought tax relief for insurance companies' catastrophe reserves an important step closer.

A Private Member's Bill from Oliver Heald, Tory MP for Herefordshire North, aimed at requiring certain insurance companies to build up reserves for major disasters, failed to make Parliamentary progress when it was debated in the Commons on Friday. Although the Insurance Companies (Reserves) Bill was

supported by the Government and the Labour front bench, the limited time available for Private Member's Bills meant that Labour left-wingers were able to "talk out" the measure. It now stands little chance of becoming law in this session of Parliament.

Jonathan Evans, the junior trade minister, said that the Treasury had agreed to consider providing tax relief for reserves, if the Bill had been passed. The British Insurance industry has long complained that it suffers a competitive

disadvantage, compared with continental Europe, because it has had to build reserves out of taxed income. As a result, UK insurers have tended to under-serve, and have been more exposed to the catastrophic losses caused by man-made and natural disasters.

The industry has expressed disappointment that it did not make further progress. Labour left-wingers were determined to prevent insurance companies benefiting from a tax concession at a time of tax increases on the public.

Super Bowl of cherries at \$40,000 a second

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON



Cup that cheers: 750 million consumers tune in

EVEN before the start of last night's American football Super Bowl one record had fallen. The game generated the most expensive television commercial in history. A 30-second advert during the first Super Bowl in 1967 cost \$85,000. Last night, when the San Francisco 49ers took on the San Diego Chargers in Miami, it cost \$1.2 million.

That was \$40,000 a second, or triple the cost of a commercial during the most popular prime-time shows, and does not include production costs that in some cases reached \$2 million. But ABC television had no problem selling all 60 spots to 25 advertisers.

ABC estimated that the game would be watched by 120 million Americans, male

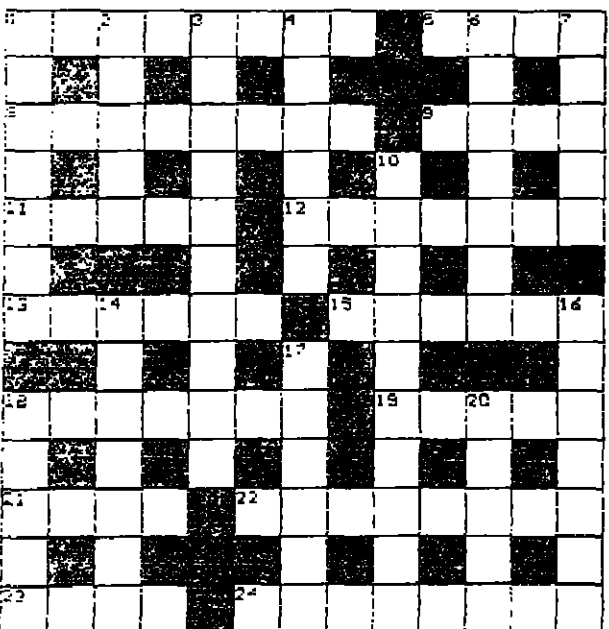
and female, young and old, not to mention another 630 million viewers in 174 other countries.

"We think we get more value from our buy in the Super Bowl than from any other buy we make," said Jerry Flemma, an advertising executive representing Master Lock, of Milwaukee, which for 20 years has spent a quarter of its promotional budget on a Super Bowl spot.

The event is the Super Bowl of advertising as well as football, when America's corporate giants launch their newest products and Madison Avenue showcases its latest and greatest ads. Last night's offerings included a new Pepsi ad in which a little boy sucks so hard on his straw that he is pulled inside

the bottle. Doritos crisps had Mario Cuomo and Ann Richards, the governors of New York and Texas until last November, discussing new flavours and packaging. Anheuser-Busch showed the final of the "Bud Bowl" — a long-running battle between bottles of Bud Light and Budweiser beer.

However, Arthur Andersen, the accountants, decided the \$1.2 million price tag was too great this year. Instead it bought 150 regular slots for half as much in the days before the game. In the empty stadium, a narrator intoned: "At Arthur Andersen we'd love to be in on the big game. However the people we want to get this message to will probably be there and would miss our commercial."



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 382

ACROSS

1. Serenely calm (8)
5. (Northern) girl (4)
8. Debatable (8)
9. Summit, peak (4)
11. Italian ham town, had Charterhouse (5)
12. Arousing strong feelings (7)
13. Feeble, exhausted (6)
15. Sugar, milk, spirits etc drink: a flip (3-3)
18. Scent: distilled extract (7)
19. Went down (tide) (5)
21. Way out (4)
22. Contemplate (an eventual-ity) (8)
23. Pull: an American (4)
24. Remove faded flowers: use- less person (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 381

ACROSS: 1 Gay Gordons 9 Gainsay 11 Suite 13 Yawn 12 Retainer 14 Unripe 15 Floral 18 Tipstaff 20 Okra 22 Morse 23 Impasto 24 Rearrangement

DOWN: 2 Also 3 Geyser 4 Rascally 5 Orion 6 Steer clear of 7 Ugly customer 8 Viewer 13 Upstream 16 Rakish 17 Affirm 19 Parka 21 Upon

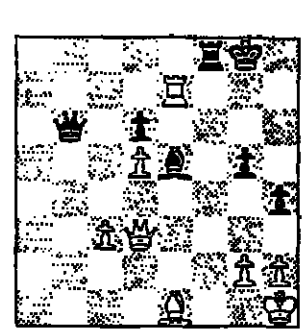
DOWN

1. Trudge (7)
2. Bode: Roman soothsayer (5)
3. Isolation of suspected disease-carrier (10)
4. As replacement (2-4)
6. Disposal of lots (7)
7. Investment (by army) (5)
10. Too shy to speak (6-4)
14. Thick cotton fabric pomp- ous writing (7)
16. Unexpected, much-needed event (7)
17. Spiritualist session (6)
18. Mineral used for abrading, polishing (5)
20. Slowing device: thickset (5)

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Stefanova - Peptan, Moscow Olympiad, 1995. Things look desperate for Black, who is a pawn down and threatened with mate on h7. How did she turn the tables to score a neat win?



Solution, page 41
Raymond Keene, page 7

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BLONDINETTE

- a. A pigeon
- b. A type of hairnet
- c. A kind of tuna

DISSAVA

- a. A gingery herb
- b. Fermented coconut juice
- c. A governor in Sri Lanka

FANAGALO

- a. A lascivious dance
- b. A picador's ribbon
- c. An African lingo

BIGARADE

- a. A bitter orange
- b. A Portuguese Army brigade
- c. Eccentric

Answers on page 41

PROJECT YOURSELF

into

Business

project in mind?

Biggish capital project?

Smaller scale investment project?

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